Hafa Adai!

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Hart: Show-cause report highlights major strides. PAGE 3
NMI immigration reform caught up in nat'l politics. PAGE 6

$40M Fund refunds out today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund released yesterday over $40 million in defined benefit plan contributions and said that applicants can get their checks starting today, Wednesday.

This developed as the CNMI government, through assistant attorney general Reena J. Patel, submitted in the U.S. District Court for the NMI Monday a statement

RELATED NEWS
➤ Senate adds Inos' $107,258 in bill funding opt-outs. PAGE 2

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SENATE SESSION

Sen. Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian), right, looks on while Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), background, discusses a bill during yesterday's session. The Senate passed an amended House bill funding the pension of retirees that opted out of a global settlement class, along with a bill that lowers the fire safety code permit from $500 to anywhere between $25 and 150 depending on the type of business.

See story on Page 2

Obamacare website builders saw red flags

By JACK GILLUM and JULIE PACE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Crammed into conference rooms with pizza for dinner, some programmers building the Obama administration's showcase health insurance website were growing increasingly stressed. Some worked past 10 p.m., energy drinks in hand. Others rewrote computer code over and over to meet what they considered last-minute requests for changes from the government or other contractors.

As questions mount over the website's failure, insider interviews and a review of technical specifications by The Associated Press found a mind-numbingly complex system put together by harried programmers who pushed out a final product that congressional investigators said was tested by the government and not private developers with

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YOU COULD ALWAYS HIT THE "RESET" BUTTON...
...BUT THEN THAT'S NOT FULLY OPERATIONAL EITHER.
ROCKY START TO OBAMACARE: GLITCHES ABOUND
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5 MONTHS AFTER CUTTING TIES WITH ALLEGIANCE, MAHMOOD

Green Globe finds new partner for $200M wind, solar proposal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Green Globe Solutions will be back in the CNMI next week with a new investment partner for its planned $200 million, 40- to 60-megawatt wind farm and solar energy project on Tinian and Saipan. This comes five months after Green Globe cut ties with Allegiance Capital and Kenneth Mahmood, among other entities involved in a botched $190.8-million sole-source power purchase agreement.

Agility, a leading global logistics provider, has partnered with Green Globe Solutions to provide renewable energy to the CNMI.

More information about Agility is available at www.agility-logistics.com.

"Agility is a $6 billion company based on information available to us. These companies—Green Globe and Agility—have asked the Legislature for an opportunity to present themselves,

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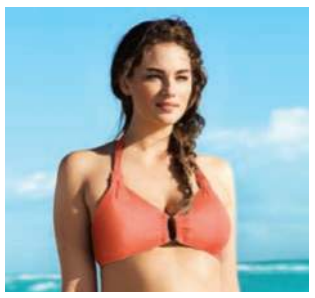
OPINION METER
This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate CUC's response time to power outages during last week's bad weather?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS



When it comes to women's clothing sizes, there's some funny math going on. ➤ PAGE 13

NATION

A Nevada student opens fire, killing a math teacher and himself. ➤ PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE

Britney Spears balances her 'crazy mom' home life with work. ➤ PAGE 20

Local

Senate adds governor's $107,258 in bill funding opt-outs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senators passed a House bill yesterday afternoon funding the pension of retirees who opted out of a global settlement deal and added Gov. Eloy S. Inos' request for a supplemental appropriation using $107,258 for the opt-outs' pension.

House Bill 18-130, Senate Draft 1 passed the Senate by a vote of 7-0 at 4:47pm.

Because of the Senate amendment, Rep. Tony Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) bill has to go back to the House. Once the House approves the Senate-amended bill, the measure goes to the governor.

HB 18-130's original intent is to use any lapsed funds from a 4 percent employer contribution to the defined contribution plan that the government no longer has to pay if DC members withdraw their funds.

Senators were poised to pass the bill in its original form but the governor's letter to the Legislature on the eve of the Senate session prompted Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) to introduce a floor amendment.

Yumul's floor amendment adds the $107,258 that the governor said is available to fund the pension of opt-out retirees.

His amendment also appropriates "any other additional unappropriated revenue that the governor identifies."

The Senate adopted Yumul's amendment at 4:43pm before voting on the main motion.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) voted "yes with reservation," after voicing concern that such an amendment with proposed appropriation may have to originate from the House. Taimanao pointed out, however, that she supports the bill's intent.

» Bill goes back to House, as disbursement of over $40M in DB plan begins today

The Senate session set for 1:30pm didn't start until about 3:30pm, as acting Senate president Victor Hocog (R-Rota) held a closed-door meeting with senators on the pension funding bill, among other things.

Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), during the session, recognized the House bill's author, Sablan, for finding a way to fund the pension of opt-out retirees.

"We need to take care of the opt-outs. They are also entitled to receive their pension," Reyes said.

The governor said the total amount needed to fund the opt-out retirees' pension is over $227,000, much more than the $107,258 so far identified to partly fund this obligation.

This means the administration and Legislature need to identify new sources to fund the balance through the end of fiscal year 2014.

The 16 who opted out the settlement agreement are not eligible to receive benefits from the settlement fund. They will need a separate appropriation of funds in order to be paid their semi-monthly pension.

The amount required to fully fund the pension excluding employer contribution for Group Health and Life Insurance is $248,114.73. The required amount to be paid at 75 percent of pension is $186,086.07. The employer contribution and life insurance is $41,342.40.

The settlement class has over 4,000 members and only 16 opted out. The opt-out retirees did not get their pension on Oct. 15 while the retirees that remained members of the settlement class started getting a 25-percent cut on theirs that same day.

One of those who opted out, Jess Taisague, is now suing the government after he failed to receive his pension on Oct. 15.

Meanwhile, those who applied for refunds of their defined benefit plan employee contribution—totaling over $40 million—will start getting their refunds today.

"I will surely be at the Retirement Fund office early Wednesday morning to get my check," one of those refund applicants said yesterday.

Korean businessman found extraditable

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has found Korean businessman Jae Boong Kim extraditable for offenses he allegedly committed in Korea.

Manglona issued Friday a certification of extraditability for Kim after determining that the U.S. government has met the five conditions for extradition.

Kim was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The U.S. government, on behalf of the Republic of Korea government, has filed two extradition cases against Kim for offenses committed in South Korea.

Federal agents arrested Kim in May on Saipan based on two outstanding arrest warrants in South Korea for allegedly defrauding two women of about 530.8 million Korean won ($477,632) and defrauding some Korean nurses by falsely promising them jobs in Guam.

In her ruling, Manglona said a court's role in extradition proceedings is limited.

Manglona said the court's sole duty, as well as power, is "to determine an individual's eligibility to be extradited" and, where applicable, certify him as extraditable.

The judge said the court has subject matter to conduct this extradition proceeding and has personal jurisdiction over Kim because he was found and arrested in the CNMI.

Manglona said there is an extradition treaty between the U.S. and Korea that is in full force and effect.

Manglona said the alleged offenses are substantially analogous to at least four U.S. and Commonwealth crimes, with these domestic statutes targeting the evil of Kim's act.

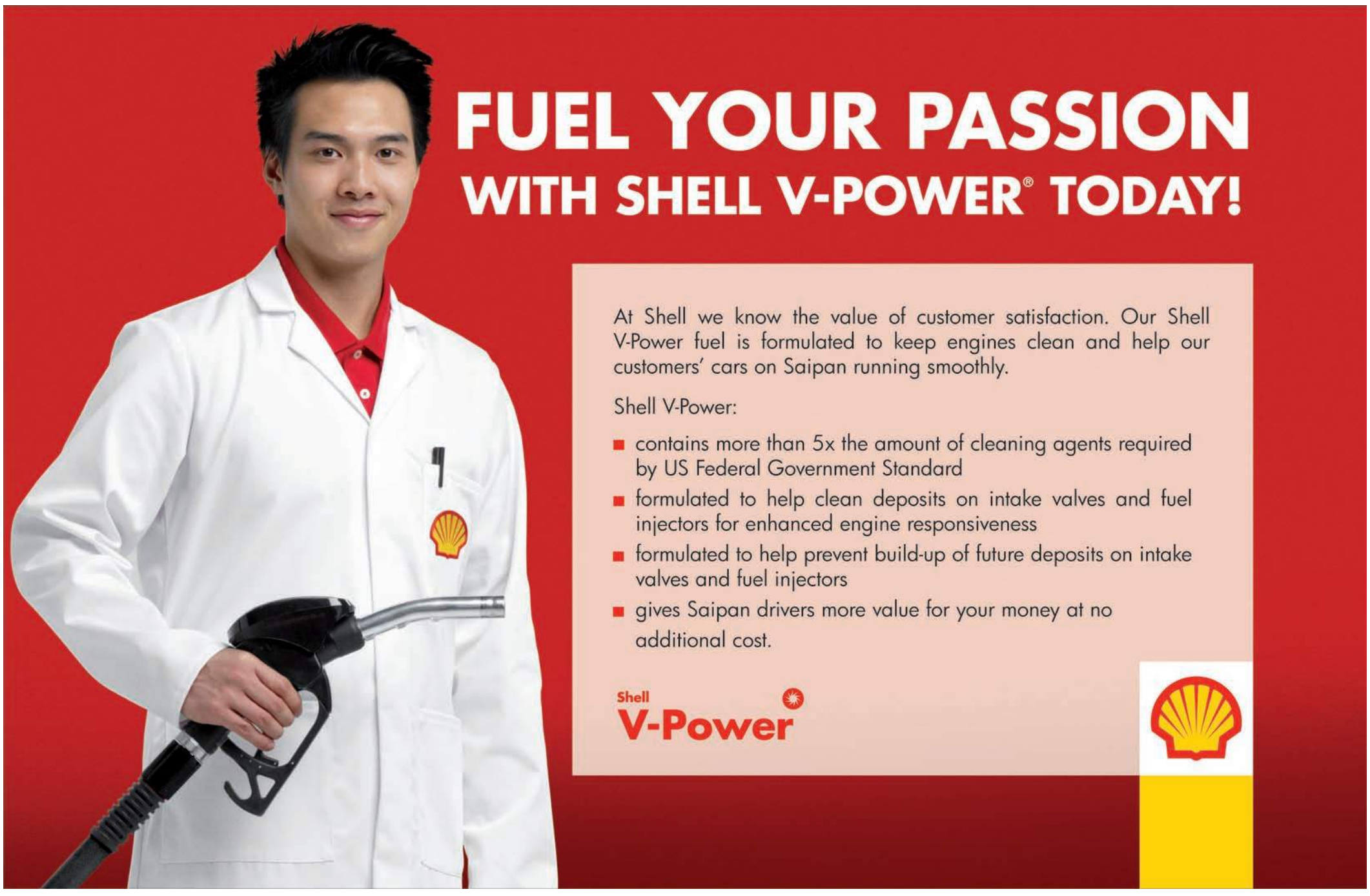
Manglona said the statements by a Korean prosecutor provide reasonable grounds that Kim has committed the charges of fraud and forgery.

Attorneys Stephen Woodruff and Joe Hill served as counsel for Kim.

Woodruff earlier stated that Kim admits that he borrowed money from the two persons described in the complaint, but with the intent to fully repay them.

In the second case, Woodruff said the complaint fails to acknowledge that Kim refunded a portion of the fees by the unsuccessful candidates for nurses at Guam Memorial Hospital.

Assistant U.S. attorney Jessica Cruz represented the U.S. government.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Hart: Show-cause report highlights major strides

Members of the ACCJC visiting team hold an open forum with students and employees of the Northern Marianas College. Standing in pink is team chair Dr. Marie Smith.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Representatives of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges capped their visit to the Northern Marianas College yesterday, with college president Dr. Sharon Hart expressing herself pleased with what NMC accomplished in its show-cause report.

"We are proud of the accomplishments that we were able to report in the 'show-cause report and the substantive change proposal.' The show-cause report was submitted on Oct. 15, 2013, and the substantive change proposal was submitted on Sept. 30, 2013," Hart said.

The ACCJC team arrived last weekend and began their meetings at NMC on Monday and Tuesday. The team met with members of the Board of Regents, Hart, managers, staff, faculty, and students.

"The members of the college community, including faculty, staff, and students, have been working in teams for the past several months to complete the show-cause report and to prepare for this visit," said Hart. "We have been looking forward to meeting with the members of the visiting team to share the great progress the college has made to address the concerns that were raised in the commission's action letter."

The visiting team was composed of ACCJC staff as well as active and retired faculty members and administrators from other postsecondary institutions in Hawaii and California.

Frankie M. Eliptico, NMC external relations office director, said the purpose of the visit was twofold: to verify the contents of the show-cause report that the college submitted last week and to evaluate the college's substantive change proposal that will potentially allow NMC's bachelor's degree in education program to be accredited by ACCJC.

He said the program is already accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities, which, like ACCJC, is part of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

However, since joint accreditation by both ACCJC and ACSCU is not allowed by U.S. Department of Education regulations, NMC submitted the substantive change proposal that would allow the education program to be accredited by ACCJC, thus having all of NMC's programs accredited under one accrediting body, Eliptico said.

Among the accomplishments that Hart highlighted in the show-cause report are:

■ NMC filled key vacancies at the college, including the positions for the chief financial officer, IT director, and admissions director. These positions were filled by Tracy Guerrero, Jonathan Liwag, and Manny Castro, respectively.

■ The Board of Regents adopted a new policy on minimum instructional faculty qualifications. This was developed with input from an ad hoc committee consisting of instructional faculty, departmental chairs, and administrators. NMC also looked at minimum faculty qualification standards that have been established for other colleges in other regions.

■ The Board of Regents repealed the policy on honorary regents after the ACCJC raised serious concerns about this. According to the ACCJC, these honorary regents engage in direct discussion related to policy (thereby violating accreditation standard requiring board independence). Hart said that faculty, staff, and students are still engaged in the college's participative governance structure.

While NMC has addressed some of the ACCJC's concerns, Hart said the college still has a ways to go to achieve its goals.

"There are many other areas where significant work and progress has been made. And just because the visit has now concluded does not mean that this progress will slow. We still have much work to do to sustain our momentum and I believe that our team of students, staff, and faculty has the heart and energy to see us through."

NMC is currently on show-cause status but the college's accredited status remains during the show-cause period.

More research needed on effect of sea level rise on Pacific atolls

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—A New Zealand academic says more research is needed to monitor the Pacific's changing shorelines as each island responds differently to rising sea levels.

Dr. Murray Ford, from the University of Auckland's School of Environment, used old photos from World War II and more recent satellite images to study the shoreline of Wotje Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

He says the atoll's shoreline has mostly increased since 1945 but this does not mean rising sea levels are not a threat.

"This research kind of illustrates the complexity of these islands and how little we understand about the dynamics and the changes to the island shorelines. Wotje has generally grown, although there's some evidence, that needs to be explored in more depth, to suggest that since 2004 there's possibly been a shift toward more erosion."

Ford says this research is important for underpinning future village developments like schools so they can be shifted away from erosion prone areas. ***(RNZI)***

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■ Houses For Rent MIHA applicants accepted

Associate judge nominee thanks NMI Bar for evaluation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Associate judge-nominee Teresa Kim-Tenorio thanked the CNMI Bar Association for initiating an evaluation of her nomination to serve on the Superior Court, even as a Senate panel has yet to schedule a public hearing on her and three other's nominations as of yesterday.

Kim-Tenorio

"I would like to thank the CNMI Bar Association for taking the lead in this evaluation process so that my colleagues could have the opportunity to give their opinions about my capabilities and professionalism. I would also like to thank my colleagues who took the time out to fill out the evaluation," Kim-Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune.*

Kim-Tenorio has been counsel for Gov. Eloy S. Inos since February and when Inos was still lieutenant governor.

The Bar Association gave Kim-Tenorio acceptable ratings of between 3 and 3.81 in the evaluation of her fitness to serve as associate judge.

The criteria used numerical values—1 through 5—with 1 being unacceptable and 5 being excellent.

Kim-Tenorio received a rating of 3 for experience; 3.63 for integrity; 3.48 for professional competence; 3.41 for judicial temperament; and 3.81 for service to the law and contribution to the effective administration of justice.

"The position of associate judge is a critical component in our legal system and I appreciate the thoroughness of the all parties involved, including the Senate, the Office of the Governor, the Judiciary, and the Bar Association," Kim-Tenorio added.

The Bar Association earlier gave the governor's first associate judge nominee, attorney Ray Quichocho, "unacceptable" and "deficient" ratings.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said yesterday that a schedule of public hearing on Kim-Tenorio and others' nominations is forthcoming.

The governor had already submitted to the Senate the documents supporting his nomination of Kim-Tenorio and three others.

OBAMACARE

From Page 1

more expertise.

Project developers who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity—because they feared they would otherwise be fired—said they raised doubts among themselves whether the website could be ready in time. They complained openly to each other about what they considered tight and unrealistic deadlines. One was nearly brought to tears over the stress of finishing on time, one developer said. Website builders saw red flags for months.

A review of internal architectural diagrams obtained by the AP revealed the system's complexity. Insurance applicants have a host of personal information verified, including income and immigration status. The system connects to other federal computer networks, including ones at the Social Security Administration, IRS, Veterans Administration, Office of Personnel Management and the Peace Corps.

President Barack Obama on Monday acknowledged technical problems that he described as "kinks in the system." He also promised a "tech surge" by leading technology talent to repair the painfully slow and often unresponsive website that has frustrated Americans trying to enroll online for insurance plans at the center of Obama's health care law.

But in remarks at a Rose Garden event, Obama offered no explanation for the failure except to note that high traffic to the website caused some of the slowdowns. He said it had been visited nearly 20 million times—fewer monthly visits so far than many commercial websites, such as PayPal, AOL, Wikipedia or Pinterest.

"The problem has been that the website that's supposed to make it easy to apply for and purchase the insurance is not working the way it should for everybody," Obama said. "There's no sugarcoating it. The website has been too slow. People have been getting stuck during the application process. And I think it's fair to say that nobody is more frustrated by that than I am."

The online system was envisioned as a simple way for people without health insurance to comparison-shop among competing plans offered in their state, pick their preferred level of coverage and cost and sign up. For many, it's not worked out that way so far.

Just weeks before the launch of HealthCare.gov on Oct. 1, one programmer said, colleagues huddled in conference rooms trying to patch "bugs," or deficiencies in computer code. Unresolved problems led to visitors experiencing cryptic error messages or enduring long waits trying to sign up.

Congressional investigators have concluded that the government's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, not private software developers, tested the exchange's computer systems during the final weeks. That task, known as integration testing, is usually handled by software companies because it ferrets out problems before the public sees the final product.

The government spent at least $394 million in contracts to build the federal health care exchange and the data hub. Those contracts included major awards to Virginia-based CGI Federal Inc., Maryland-based Quality Software Services Inc. and Booz Allen Hamilton Inc.

CGI Federal said in a statement Monday it was working with the government and other contractors "around the clock" to improve the system, which it called "complex, ambitious and unprecedented."

The schematics from late 2012 show how officials designated a "data services hub"—a traffic cop for managing information—in lieu of a design that would have allowed state exchanges to connect directly to government servers when verifying an applicant's information. On Sunday, the Health and Human Services Department said the data hub was working but not meeting public expectations: "We are committed to doing better."

Administration officials so far have refused to say how many people actually have managed to enroll in insurance during the three weeks since the new marketplaces became available. Without enrollment numbers, it's impossible to know whether the program is on track to reach projections from the Congressional Budget Office that 7 million people would gain coverage during the first year the exchanges were available.

Instead, officials have selectively cited figures that put the insurance exchanges in a positive light. They say more than 19 million people have logged on to the federal website and nearly 500,000 have filled out applications for insurance through both the federal and state-run sites.

The flood of computer problems since the website went online has been deeply embarrassing for the White House. The snags have called into question whether the administration is capable of implementing the complex policy and why senior administration officials—including the president—appear to have been unaware of the scope of the problems when the exchange sites opened.

Even as the president spoke at the Rose Garden, more problems were coming to light. The administration acknowledged that a planned upgrade to the website had been postponed indefinitely and that online Spanish-language signups would remain unavailable, despite a promise to Hispanic groups that the capability would start this week.

FUND

From Page 1

of compliance with Betty Johnson's class action settlement agreement.

Patel told the court that the required legislative action has been taken and final disbursements under the settlement agreement shall be made accordingly.

The Fund said that, with the requirements of the Betty Johnson class action settlement agreement having been met, it uploaded direct deposit payments yesterday.

Applicants can expect their employee contribution withdrawals to be credited to their bank accounts within 24-48 hours after upload.

The Fund also plans to distribute checks to all applicants beginning today, Wednesday, on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota from 8am to 5pm.

Applicants can pick up their checks at the Fund building on Saipan, the Rota Mayor's Office on Rota, and the Tinian Mayor's Office on Tinian.

Fund in-house legal counsel Viola Alepuyo said there are a total of 1,710 recipients: 1,372 on Saipan, 141 on Tinian, and 197 on Rota.

Alepuyo said 708 are checks and the rests are ACH (automated clearing house).

She said Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan had stated that the plan was to disburse after Nov. 1 but because of the hard work and dedication of the Fund's staff, distribution is earlier than scheduled.

"The staff, under the leadership of Rima Yamagishi, the Fund deputy administrator, deserve to be praised for working tirelessly and without complaint," Alepuyo said.

The Fund reminded Public Laws 17-82 and 18-02 applicants that if they have not submitted their waivers, the Fund will not process their disbursement. "Anyone who needs to, please visit the Fund and execute a waiver," the Fund said.

Public Law 17-82 allows Fund members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government. Public Law 18-02 compels the Fund to release up to 50 percent of members' contributions within 30 days of submitting a refund application.

The disbursement came after the Legislature passed Friday a House Joint Resolution 18-11, HD1, that paves the way for the disbursement of over $40 million in remaining defined benefit plan employee contributions this week.

According to the Fund yesterday, the pension agency has received notice from Johnson and the CNMI government that the joint resolution conforms with the requirement of "legislative action" outlined by the settlement agreement.

"Therefore, PL 17-82/18-02 applicants can now receive their disbursements," the Fund said.

The disbursements were originally set for last week but a clause in the original resolution proved to be unacceptable to Johnson's lawyers.

Some $10 million were earlier disbursed following the preliminary approval of the settlement agreement on Aug. 6 in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Under the agreement, the remaining $42 million will be released after the court's final approval of the settlement agreement and then after legislative approval. Designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood gave the final approval on Sept. 30.

MVA welcomes 13,000 'Happy Children in Paradise'

The Marianas Visitors Authority wrapped up its annual summer Happy Children in Paradise campaign on Sept. 30, 2013, making Saipan-da backpacks available to nearly 13,000 children over three months.

The campaign provides Saipan-da backpacks to all visiting children ages 11 and younger as a souvenir of their visit to the Northern Mariana Islands during the summer months and at Christmas time. The MVA distributed coupons for 12,824 backpacks during summer, an 11-percent increase over the same period last year.

"When visitors talk about Saipan-da, they're also talking about Saipan," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Ninety-five percent of international flights to the Northern Marianas fly to Saipan, and from there visitors can travel to Tinian and Rota. Saipan-da is a popular and effective way to keep our destination on people's minds…and in their hands."

"Kids from all countries love Saipanda and the smiles on their faces mean their parents are happy too. Happy visitors are repeat visitors."

Participating hotels distributed coupons to qualified guests during the period. The coupons were redeemable at the DFS Galleria Saipan-da Corner, where a live action Saipan-da greeted guests and was available for picture taking.

The name Saipan-da is a triple play on words in English and Japanese: "sai" means rhinoceros, the panda bear, and the destination name Saipan. The whole word Saipan-da! means "Saipan is it!" in Japanese, or "Saipan's the place to be!" ***(MVA)***

GREEN

From Page 1

who they are, what they do, their successful projects," House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Deleon Guerrero and Senate PUTC Committee chair Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) have set a joint meeting with Green Globe and Agility officials at 9:30am on Monday in the House chamber on Capital Hill.

"I ask lawmakers, not only the members of the PUTC Committees, to be there, to ask questions and learn about the project these companies are proposing," Deleon Guerrero said in an interview.

Chris Thunken, Green Globe Solutions Guam Inc. managing partner and founder, along with Agility program manager John M. Dennett, will be meeting with the Legislature, Deleon Guerrero said.

He said that based on preliminary information, Green Globe and Agility will be developing some $200 million worth of wind farm and solar energy project on Tinian and Saipan.

"What we're told is that it would be 40 megawatts and up to 60 megawatts that will be produced on Tinian and then brought to Saipan and preliminary information is that it's going to be a $200 million or so investment," Deleon Guerrero said.

In May, Green Globe Solutions severed ties with Allegiance Capital Corp., which previously agreed to finance their wind farm and solar energy project in the CNMI.

The proposed project involved a 30-megawatt wind farm on Tinian and a 10MW solar project on Saipan back in May.

At the time, Thunken said this will help them gain credibility in the CNMI, which is still wary of Allegiance Capital's involvement in any power project, especially if it's still tied to a shipyard in Lower Base.

Allegiance Capital and Keystone Shipping formed Saipan Development LLC, which earlier signed a $190.8 million diesel power purchase agreement with former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

That agreement was one of the bases of two House impeachment resolutions against Fitial, who resigned days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

Green Globe Solutions is just one of the companies that have expressed interest in developing renewable energy in the CNMI.

However, the CNMI has yet to complete a renewable energy integration study that will determine how much renewable energy can be accommodated by the current power grid.

Ex-senator's request to postpone his sentencing OK'd

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted yesterday former senator Juan M. Ayuyu's request to postpone his sentencing.

Manglona also granted Ayuyu's motion to give him more time to submit objections to the U.S. Probation Office's presentence investigative report.

The U.S. government did not oppose Ayuyu's requests.

Manglona reset the sentencing hearing to Dec. 20, 2013, at 9am. The original sentencing date was Nov. 8, 2013.

The judge allowed Ayuyu to provide the U.S. government with any objections he has to the presentence investigation report on or before Nov. 1, 2013.

Ayuyu's lawyer, Bruce Berline, asked the court to give them two more weeks to provide objections to the presentence investigation report and to postpone the sentencing.

Berline said he needs additional time to review the presentence investigation report with his client.

Berline said he received the presentence investigation report on Oct. 3 but he was preparing for a jury trial at that time. He has another trial that began Monday, Oct. 21.

The lawyer said he has spoken with Ayuyu's other lawyer, David J. Lujan, the prosecution, and the Probation Office, and there has been no objection to the request.

Ayuyu pleaded guilty to two charges relating to the smuggling of endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan. Last August, the court allowed his temporary release while he awaits his sentencing.

$25-$150 fire code permit bill now heads to House

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senators passed yesterday afternoon a bill that lowers the fire safety code permit from $500 to anywhere between $25 and $150, depending on the type of business, in response to businesses' sentiments that an annual $500 permit is "exorbitant," "unreasonable" and far exceeds almost all types of business fees and licenses in the CNMI.

The Senate passed by a vote of 7-0 Sen. Pete Reyes' (Ind-Saipan) Senate Bill 18-36 at 4:07pm yesterday without amendment.

The bill now goes to the House. Reyes hopes the House will also support the proposal.

During the session, Reyes said the $500 flat permit fee is unacceptable to the business community because it does not take into account the nature and size of business.

"Right now, the fee is $500 whether it's a big hotel or a mom and pop store. The bill will bring a much reasonable rate depending on the type and size of business," he said later.

If enacted into law, the fire safety code permit will only be $25 for businesses with less than 10 employees, private schools, or any learning institution.

The proposed fee is $50 for a theater, hall, or other buildings for theatrical purposes, or for public entertainment.

For a garage or building for commercial repairing, cleaning, upkeep or storage of automobiles, trucks or gasoline engines, the proposed fee is $75.

For hotels, motels and any other building or establishment, the proposed fee is $100.

SB 18-36 also seeks a $125 fee for any business that distributes, stores, uses, or sells fireworks.

Lastly, the bill proposes a $150 fee for any business that distributes, stores, uses, or sells gasoline, diesel, or propane gas or any other type of gas.

Reyes said yesterday that inspecting businesses for fire safety code compliance shouldn't be that complicated, considering that the same businesses had already secured a certificate of occupancy that also requires compliance with building and fire safety rules, among other things.

"But I agree that the inspection should be done every year," the senator.

The Department of Public Safety's Fire Division chief is tasked with coming up with regulations once the bill is signed into law.

CUC reconnection fee bill

Reyes reminded his colleagues of tonight's Saipan public hearing on a bill seeking to lower the Commonwealth Utilities Corp's reconnection fee from $60 to $25.

The public hearing on Senate President Ralph Torres's (R-Saipan) SB 18-30, organized by the Senate and House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committees, will be at 6pm today at the Legislature.

In yesterday's session, Reyes lamented the absence of any CUC representative during a public hearing on the bill on Tinian and hopes that tonight's public hearing on Saipan will draw CUC's participation. The Rota public hearing has yet to be rescheduled.

Typhoon Lekima to make nearest approach possibly tonight

Tropical Storm Lekima intensified into a typhoon and is forecast to have its nearest approach to the Northern Islands either Wednesday night or Thursday morning.

As of 7pm Tuesday, the center of Typhoon Lekima was 685 miles east of Pagan, 700 miles east of Saipan and Tinian, 745 miles east of Rota, and 790 miles east of Guam.

From maximum sustained winds of 85 miles per hour at 1pm, Lekima increased its winds to 120 mph as of 7pm last night, according to the National Weather Service in Guam.

Moving northwest at 21mph, the typhoon will continue to intensify through today, Wednesday, with its force winds extending up to 30 miles from the center. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

Jae Ho Hong is no longer affiliated with the following entities:

Guam: JMSH LLC, Alupang Beach Tower, Garden Villa Hotel, Holiday Resort Guam, Seoul Jung Restaurant, Mai'Ana Airport Plaza and Guam Horizon Hotel.

Rota: Rota Resort & Country Club and RGMW LLC.

Saipan: Arctic Circle Air Company.

He has no authority to bind any of the named companies.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 09-0185)
-v-	)
GENEVIEVE LUANNE S. FITIAL and FRANCISCA S. FITIAL, Defendants.	)))

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 019 J 80, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 925 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 019 J 15, dated November 12, 2003, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 03-2501, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 6, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 16th day of October, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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INVITATION FOR BID

NMHC IFB 2013-005

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

OFFICE SPACE FOR NMHC IN ROTA

OPENING DATE OF BID: Friday, October 25, 2013
Time: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested owners of commercial buildings in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up the Scope of Work at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. Inquiries may be directed to Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager, at telephone nos. 670.234-6866/7689 during regular business hours or Barrie C. Toves, Rota Field Office Representative, at 670.532-9410.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the best interest of the NMHC and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-14-002

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $80.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-14-002, Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 14, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **October 28, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org & Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles.warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

NMI immigration reform caught up again in nat'l politics

WASHINGTON D.C. (Pacific News Center)—CNMI immigration reform is again caught up in National politics after an unglorious end to last week's federal government shutdown.

President Barack Obama and Democrats are hoping to use any political momentum from reopening the government to renew their push for comprehensive immigration reform by the end of the year.

CNMI Congressman Greg Kilili Sablan also hopes to benefit in his bid to provide a "green card pathway to citizenship" for some 12,000 CNMI long-stay foreign workers and others, but key Republicans on immigration are not ready to roll over—especially after the just-ended showdown over Obamacare.

Idaho Rep. Raul Labrador said recently, anything the GOP negotiates with Obama on immigration will be used to "destroy the Republican Party."

Florida GOP senator and immigration reform supporter Marco Rubio told Chris Wallace on Fox News Sunday said, "You have a government and a White House that has consistently decided to ignore the law or how to apply it—look at the health care law. They decide what parts of it to apply, and which parts not to apply…they issue their own waivers, without any congressional oversight and what they say is, 'you're going to pass an immigration law, that has both some legalization aspect, and some enforcement.' What's not to say that this White House won't come back and cancel the enforcement aspects of it?"

Republicans have insisted on tough border security ahead of any pathway to citizenship and House GOP leaders were largely silent on immigration after the federal shutdown.

Speaker John Boehner's spokesman said last Thursday that Boehner "remains committed to a step-by-step approach"…and Rubio sees a political "price" to be paid after the shutdown.

Rubio said, "Now, this notion that they're going to get in a room and negotiate a deal with the President on immigration is much more difficult to do, for two reasons…number one, because of the way the President has behaved toward his opponents over the last three weeks…and number two, because of what I have outlined to you. So, I certainly think that immigration reform is a lot harder to achieve today than it was just three weeks ago, because of what's happened here."

Some reform advocates think the GOP loss on defunding Obamacare will make Boehner fearful of pursuing sweeping immigration, including CNMI reforms, that would depend heavily on Democratic votes.

Others, like the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, argue public polling shows a downside for the GOP from the shutdown. Conference Migration Policy Director Kevin Appleby says Republicans will want to "stabilize" themselves.

MVA now current with local, offshore vendors

The recovering tourism industry has another positive effect in the operations of the Marianas Visitors Authority, with newly re-elected chair Marian Aldan-Pierce happily announcing that the tourism body is now current with local and offshore vendors,

Aldan-Pierce

"I am pleased to report that this fiscal year, the MVA was able to catch up on our long outstanding liabilities to our local and offshore vendors, who are very happy, of course. The MVA is now current on our vendors' accounts, and we will work to keep current next year, as well," she said during her recent confirmation hearing at the Senate.

Aldan-Pierce, on behalf of the MVA board, gave thanks to the Department of Finance, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, and Finance staff for their support in the timely remittance of funds to the MVA.

Aside from its annual budget, MVA's finances were also buoyed beginning last fiscal year by the hotel tax.

As recently as 2010, the MVA owed $2 million to travel and tourism agencies in Japan, Korea, Russia, and China as well as in the CNMI.

The situation was so desperate that MVA managing director Perry Tenorio asked the help of lawmakers to find money to pay off MVA's outstanding debt.

Aldan-Pierce also invited members of the Legislature to join MVA in its promotional campaign in key overseas markets.

"In order to truly appreciate the mandate of MVA and what we are faced with whenever we promote overseas, we against extend the invitation we gave members of the Legislature earlier this year to please join us when we attend travel fairs in our various markets. We were joined by a couple of House members on our last trip to China and I believe their perception of what China is like was totally blown out of the water. Plus it made them realize how tough it is to market our island destinations when we compete with countries like the U.S., Australia, Europe, etc." ***(Mark Rabago)***

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Qualifications: Minimum 10 years of consecutive and progressive practical experience in the application of accounting practices and a college degree in Accountancy; experience in the petroleum industry is highly desirable. Candidate must be able to: examine, analyze and interpret accounting records to prepare financial statements, give advice or audit and evaluate statements prepared by others; Develop, implement, modify and document recordkeeping and accounting systems, making use of current computer technology; Compute both local and federal taxes owed and ensuring compliance with payment, reporting and other tax requirements; Analyze business operations, trends, costs, revenues to project future revenues and expenses; Report to management regarding the finances of the business. Requires advance proficiency in computer skills, specifically with Microsoft Excel; have the ability to resolve discrepancies and work under pressure of time-sensitive tasks. Requires integrity and accuracy; must be willing to work flexible hours.

Business Support Assistant

Qualifications: Minimum 5 years of consecutive accounting experience in the application of accounting practices; knowledge and experience in JDE software systems; classify, record and summarize financial data to compile and update financial records using journals and computers; debit, credit and total accounts on computer spreadsheets using specialized accounting software; receive, record and deposit accounts receivables received. Must be highly proficiency in computer skills, specifically with Microsoft Excel; have the ability to multi-task and occasionally work under pressure and time-sensitive tasks. Requires integrity, and accuracy; must be willing to work flexible hours.

Dispatcher

Qualifications: Minimum 5 years practical experience in dispatching and effective scheduling; monitoring driver locations and delivery confirmations; prepare daily delivey schedules and related documentation; understand local roadways and hazards; excellent communication and interpersonal relations skills; ability to multi-task and work under pressure; high proficiency in computer skills, specifically Microsoft Excel. Requires attention to detail.

Terminal Operator

Qualifications: Minimum 5 years experience in petroleum pump operations; excellent safety history; excellent interpersonal relations skills; knowledge of mathematic applications; ability to detect and manage hazards. Requires solid understanding of fuels chemistry basics and ability to work flexible schedules.

Tanker Driver

Qualifications: minimum 5 years experience in hauling of fuel and/or operating heavy goods vehicles; ability to read; ability to compute basic formulas; ability to detect and manage hazards. Requires solid understanding of fuels chemistry basics and ability to work flexible schedules.

Interested individuals who meet the requirements of a position may apply at IP&E Saipan, located at the Puerto Rico Terminal Office on Industrial Drive. Applications will be accepted through Thurday, October 31, 2013.

IP&E Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

FISHERY COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

'Eliminate bottomfish restricted fishing areas in HI'

HONOLULU—The State of Hawaii's Restricted Fishing Areas, or BRFAs, located in federal waters should be eliminated, according to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Meeting last week in Honolulu, the Council also encouraged Hawaii to consider removing all BRFAs in state waters.

The Council noted that its Scientific and Statistical Committee questioned the utility of the closed areas given the current state-federal coordinated management of the bottomfish fishery for seven deep-water species, i.e., the Deep 7, in the main Hawaiian Islands using quotas. The MHI bottomfish fishery is deemed healthy by stock assessments, with no overfishing occurring.

The State's Department of Land and Natural Resources established the BRFAs in 1998 because a federal assessment indicated MHI bottomfish stocks were approaching an over-fished condition. In 2006, the state expanded the overall amount of bottomfish grounds contained in the BRFAs by removing some areas, adding new ones, and enlarging and moving others. The result was 12 larger BRFAs, most of them containing some federal waters.

The Council noted the SSC's comment that proposed research and monitoring of the fishery can be accomplished simultaneously with the opening of the BRFAs.

The Council supported improving data collection, monitoring, stock assessments and cooperative research, which include the fishing community. The Council directed the MHI Bottomfish Working Group to meet as soon as possible to address these objectives.

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council was established by Congress to manage fisheries in offshore waters around Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Pacific remote island areas. For more information, visit www.wpcouncil.org or email infor.wpcouncil@noaa.gov; phone (808) 522-8220, or fax (808) 522-8226. ***(WESPAC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Dandan/SVES combined PTSA meeting today

Dandan Elementary School and San Vicente Elementary School will be having a combined PTSA meeting today, Oct. 23, 2013, at 6pm, at the San Vicente Elementary cafeteria. Important matters will be discussed such as the PSS Plan on Phase 2 regarding elementary/middle school and this is an opportunity for parents to share their thoughts. Also, there will be no classes on Friday, Oct. 25, 2013, due to Education Day. ***(PR)***

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following times:

- Oct. 23, 8pm to Oct. 24, 1am
- Oct. 25 from 10am to 3:30pm

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated above. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The following activities have been lined up for the month:

- Oct. 25, 4pm: Pink ribbon distribution, Garapan intersection
- Oct. 25: PINKTOBER, 6pm – 10pm, Hard Rock Café ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting today

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting today, Oct. 23, 2013, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

MHS club eyes Forbidden Island cleanup, other projects

The Marianas High School Interact Club shared with the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday some of the projects it plans for its second year of existence.

MHS Interact Club secretary Magdiel Corpuz, who served as one of the guest speakers in Rotary Club's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, said one of the projects they're looking at is a cleanup of tourist sites like the Forbidden Island.

However, Corpuz appealed to Rotary Club members to help their fledgling organization's fund drives.

"As the Halloween trick-or-treating is just around the corner, we are planning to use $50 to purchase ice *keki* and bake fried Oreos. The club would sell these items during lunchtime at reasonable prices. The proceeds will go to funding our future projects such as the Forbidden Island re-cultivating event and many others."

MARK RABAGO

Marianas High School Interact Club secretary Magdiel Corpuz served as one of the guest speakers in yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. At Corpuz's right is Rotary club president Laila Y. Boyer.

Corpuz said the club is also looking at taking part in student cultural exchanges, visits to the Aging Center, as well as participating in the Rotary Club's Trunk or Treat and being visible when Rotary Club district governor, Isako Funaki, visits Saipan next month.

The 17-year-old MHS senior said these activities might just be what the doctor ordered for club members, adding that its members would happily exchange their iPads, iPods, and game consuls on weekends for an opportunity to contribute to a worthwhile cause.

Corpuz also thanked the local Rotary Club for continuing to support the school club.

"I want to personally thank your investment and goodwill in starting an organization that involves the youth, who may be seeds of today but will be trees in the future. You have given us—the curious, artistic, and compassionate students of MHS like myself—a platform to meet good people like business tycoons, philanthropists, and inspired advocates who are willing to embrace the idea of humanitarianism and service to the community."

He also cited Rotary Club International founder Paul Harris' famous words: '"Personality has power to uplift, power to depress, power to curse, and power to bless.' We in the MHS Rotary Interactive Club have the power to believe that many others will join us in this mission in giving back to our islands," he said. ***(Mark Rabago)***

12 schools represented in poetry competition

A total of 12 schools will be represented in today's 10th Annual Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry Competition at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

Eulalia Villagomez, program officer of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, said the schools that will be sending representatives to the event are Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Junior High School, Chacha Ocean View Junior High School, Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, Grace Christian Academy-Saipan, Grace Christian Academy-Rota, Marianas Baptist Academy, Marianas High School, Mount Carmel School, Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist School, Saipan Southern High School, and Tinian Junior-Senior High School.

The competition, which honors the late Valentine Sengebau, was originally set at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, but the venue's lack of a public address system forced organizers to move it back to the AMP, which only last week reopened following the U.S. government shutdown.

Tonight's event starts promptly at 6pm.

The Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry Competition is open to junior high and high school students from around the Commonwealth and is sponsored by the Humanities Council.

Last year, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School junior's Kyle David Manuel Sandberger and Marianas Baptist Academy's Yuuki Nishida won the 9th edition of the competition.

Sandbergen's original piece, *Time Heals All*, won him first place in the senior division, which saw 13 other participants in the category that required contenders to read their own poems.

Nishida topped the junior division with his reading of the poem *Old Man and the World.*

Sengebau spent the last 25 years of his life in his adopted home of Saipan. The Palauan poet composed dozens of poems that were published in the *Micronesian Reporter* and the *Marianas Variety*, and the poetry expressed the personal joys and sorrows of his life and also explored the issues of the day, such as concerns regarding loss of cultural identity on the islands as well as the political negotiations between the United States and Micronesia. ***(Mark Rabago)***

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Bachelor's Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, at least 5 years of that as a general or operations manager in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing technical underwriting including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves undertaking of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

Supervisor, Underwriting & Claims
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree plus 5 years of work experience in insurance business particularly in claims, underwriting, and reinsurance. Must also have knowledge, skills and ability to analyze and manipulate enterprise risk management. Must possess above average communication skills, a working knowledge of MS Word and Excel and the insurance software Geniisys. Must be willing to take cross-functional assignments and adapt to changes necessary for the effective functioning of the organization's business operations.

Accountant
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, Geniisys and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

System Analyst
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance database and program – Geniisys and an in-depth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, October 31, 2013.

Century Insurance Company Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Management Accountant (2)
College degree with accounting or financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in analyzing, interpreting and providing sound financial information. Must be adept in monthly financial statement preparation and consolidation, cash flow forecasting, budgeting, and providing financial projections. Must have excellent communication, organizational and self-management skills. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft Excel, Power Point and Project. CPA not required.

Housekeeper (4)
High school diploma or GED Certificate. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Administrative Assistant (5)
Associate's Degree. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Business Operations Manager
Graduate of a 4-year degree course and with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management and building maintenance. Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic
Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

Electrician
High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

General Maintenance Worker (11)
High school diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training, and experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, grounds keeping, appliance repair, and electrical wiring; standard practices and use a variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities. Must be able to work flexible hours. Can work outdoors.

Network Administration Manager
Associate's degree in any computer science, information engineering or other computer technology related areas. Must have at least 5 years of sound experience in local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, planning, designing, implementation, and user support. Must have knowledge in MS Exchange Email Server.

Engineering Manager
Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Ability to successfully develop, implement and manage projects including the ability to provide effective leadership is a must. Adeptness in cost estimation and knowledge of quality control and federal regulations in environmental and occupational safety hazards is required. The duties of this job require constant outside travel and exposure to outside weather conditions. Must be able to provide his/her own transportation and must have a valid driver's license.

Sales Officer
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Legal Secretary (2)
Associates degree and at least 2 years work related experience in a legal office. Proficient in case and document management software, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Familiar in preparation and filing of pleadings and legal documents.

IT Manager
College degree with a major in computer science, computer technology or information engineering or other related areas is required. At least 5 years of progressive management experience and 8 years of sound and all-around IT technical experience is required. Must have well-developed written/oral and management skills and with a strong background in all IT hardware, software and communication business requirements.

Computer Technician
Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone cables/systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer
Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand.

Programmer Analyst (2)
Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming and at least 3 years of work-related experience in a professional Microsoft Windows environment. Strong practical knowledge in relational databases management particularly in midrange RDMS environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

Accounting Manager
College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Accounting Supervisor
A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a focus in accounting and/or finance. 2-3 years of progressive responsibility supervising a minimum of 3 associates. CPA/CPA candidate a plus. Audit experience also preferred. Must have knowledge with the use of SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge of Excel is a must.

Accountant (2)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, October 31, 2013.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

AT ANNUAL HOTEL INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

Guam boasts of investment opportunities

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—Guam took center stage at one of the largest hotel investment conferences to be held in Asia.

It was the Annual Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific in Hong Kong. It ran from Oct. 16 through 18, drawing approximately 800 investors from around the globe.

It was a perfect chance to discuss the growing investment opportunities on Guam, and to lay out Gov. Eddie Calvo's goal to increase the number of island hotel rooms. The goal is to add an additional 2,000 rooms by the year 2020.

"If you put a 2,500-mile radius around Guam you reach over 1 billion people. These are people from the Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, Korea and China. Guam is nestled near two of the world's largest economies and is on the forefront of expansive economic growth and at the center of promising change," Calvo stated.

Guam's delegation included representatives from the Guam Economic Development Authority, the Guam International Airport Authority, and the Guam Visitor's Bureau.

"We certainly raised some eyebrows and spawned the interest of many big players in the hotel industry," said GVB general manager Karl Pangelinan. "We will continue our dialogue with these companies, with GEDA's assistance through government investment incentives, program offerings and assistance with commercial or government properties available for development."

Guam's delegation also had a chance to meet with some of the region's most influential hotel owners, and developers, to include the Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, Samsung Development Group, Regent Hotel Group, Six Senses Hotels and Resorts, Wyndham Hotel Group, Berjaya Hotels Resorts, and Yoo Hotels.

As Guam's top economic contributor, tourism continues to grow exponentially to 1.3 million international visitors annually. "There is potential right now for Guam to welcome over 100,000 visitors from China and a million over the next decade," stated Pangelinan.

The China market is the fastest growing outbound market in the world and has been named the world's top visitor spender overseas.

'Calvo's approval rating is higher than last 2 governors'

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—University of Guam professor of Public Administration Dr. Ron Mcninch says Gov. Eddie Calvo has a higher approval rating than the two previous governors, the Legislature should go back to having 21 senators, and Guam should ask the United Nations what it thinks about the requirement that one must be a native inhabitant to be able to vote for the island's political status.

Mcninch spoke to the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay yesterday about a myriad of political topics.

First he spoke about the 2014 election, particularly the gubernatorial race. "Governor Calvo has been doing very well, he's been running between 51 and 55 percent positive. That's very unusual for the governor. Part of our feeling about that is that the governor is no longer responsible for education and healthcare so he doesn't get criticized as much. Also Governor Calvo's kept his promises, he's given the tax refunds, he's done all the things he said he's gonna do so that gives him a good high number," said Mcninch.

In fact, Mcninch said, Calvo's approval rating is higher than the previous two governors, Felix Camacho and Carl Gutierrez.

Nevertheless, he said the upcoming election happens on a long holiday-filled weekend with Halloween landing on Friday, All Saints Day on Saturday, church on Sunday, All Souls Day on Monday followed by election Tuesday. Mcninch says it is during these weekends that people change their minds about candidates as families get together and talk to one another about politics.

So if Calvo's approval ratings are good, who does Mcninch think will run against him? "I believe former governor Gutierrez is always a factor and he's always a very strong factor and certainly he can't be discounted and other good people can't be discounted. One key thing about approval ratings is we have a big wobble in this community on a three- to five-day cycle and so a person can be up one day and then a week later be down so you have to pay a lot of attention to that and elections are gonna happen a year from now," said Mcninch.

The UOG professor also thinks that the Legislature should actually increase in size from 15 to 21 senators as long as the cost remains the same. "The Legislature right now, they're so center focused you don't see any outside opinions anymore. For example, we don't have activists running that can get elected because they don't quite make the margin. On the other hand, in the last several years we haven't had any real pro-military people who are also on the margin so I think if we return to 21 we'd have a lot more balance in the Legislature. The election margin would drop sufficiently to allow people with outside views to really help push policy," said Mcninch.

He also believes that something needs to be done to prevent Guam from becoming a "dumping ground" for criminals from the Freely Associated States as well as criminals from the United States.

"We should work with these regional governments to help us to identify problem people. One, that they don't send problem people here to begin with. The second thing is the regional governments through their consuls general should meet with every person arrested and that government should identify if that person's a problem and then on their own say they shouldn't be living here because they're a problem person and then the governments themselves should deal with these people," said Mcninch, adding, "The other thing we should do is we should ask the U.S. Congress to not allow convicted felons to come to Guam, U.S. felons to come to Guam. The Campos example is a good example. He came from the CNMI. Ge had two major armed robberies in the CNMI. He was convicted for 20 years. He served a year, he came down here, got a drug conviction and then after he served in drug court here, he ended up doing a string of robberies here."

Mcninch also has some ideas on how to deal with Guam's vote for political status. He thinks Guam should ask the United Nations what they think about Guam's requirement that voters for political status be native inhabitants of Guam. Native inhabitants have been defined as anyone who was on Guam during the passage of the Organic Act and became a U.S. citizen or anyone descended from someone who became a U.S. citizen this way.

"I think the U.N. would say that Guam needs to relook at its policy. For a plebiscite and the way it's currently structured that is making it an exclusive process. There's a way to accommodate everybody," said Mcninch.

He also believes that the attorney general should go back to being an appointed position rather than an elected position because under this model the governor can make sure that the government doesn't fight against itself and that policy is uniform.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to my little princess, Genicia Mae Tyquiengco Agulto! May God bless you and may you have many more birthdays to come! I love you! Greetings come from Mom.

Happy 29th birthday to our soldier girl, Maylynn H. Babauta! Hope you have a great one and be safe! God bless you! With love from your 670 and KY *familia*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To my workaholic partner, my living sensation, my life, Derek Ngotel! Kick off your troubles, take a break, turn up the music and make a move. Put a smile on your face and enjoy the pleasure of celebrating this day. Happy birthday, darling! I love you forever to the moon and back! Infinity and beyond! With love, your half!

Happy birthday to the woman who raised us right, Teri Camacho! May the Lord continue to bless you with many more years with your family that love and appreciate everything you do. We love you, Momma!

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 23, 2005

Non-exempt staff stop working

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has finally let go of its three nonresident workers whose positions are not covered under the new exemption law. CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta said that CUC's trade technician, accountant, and computer analyst have stopped working and have left the CUC. Two weeks ago, Babauta said that these non-exempt personnel remained on call. The new law, Public Law 14-91, which extends the authority of certain government agencies to hire nonresident workers, only allowed engineers and manpower-hired plant mechanics at CUC's power generation plants.

Over 2,000 people join Autumn Festival

Over 2,000 guests and spectators mobbed the Sugar King Park yesterday as the Japanese community celebrated Japan's Autumn Festival. The Japanese Society in the Northern Marianas organized the event, coinciding with its 20th anniversary. Organization chair Shinichi Yoshida said the celebration also intended to commemorate the 10th year anniversary of the Sugar King temple's construction. Thirty groups, organizations and business establishments joined the Japanese Society during the festival. The establishments included Bianca Hotel, 3S Inc., Hafa Adai Hotel, Tony Roma's, Cappricciosa's, Ebisuya, World Resort Saipan, Saipan Grand Hotel, Country House, Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach, SPE, Marianas Resort and Spa, Kinpachi Restaurant, Tori Hide, Togawa, Pacific Development, Inc., NTA, R & C, and PMT Tasi Tours, among many others.

October 23, 2006

Floating $60-$70M to finance $174.3M deficit proposed

Should the government be allowed to borrow money to finance the CNMI's $174.3 million deficit. This question may be posed to voters in next year's midterm election, with leaders believing it is time that the CNMI reconsider the constitutional ban on deficit financing. In an interview Friday, public auditor Michael Sablan said there is a growing belief within the public and private sectors that the government should be allowed to incur debt to finance at least a portion of the CNMI's deficit. At $174.3 million as of the end of fiscal year 2005, the deficit has been accumulating over the past 15 years. This includes money owed by government to the NMI Retirement Fund, vendors, and taxpayers with overdue rebates.

Motorist seriously injured as car overturns in drainage

A motorist was seriously injured when a car he was driving ran off the roadway and overturned into a drainage in As Perdido Saturday night. It took more than five minutes for responding police officers and medics to pull out the driver from the totally wrecked car, *Saipan Tribune* learned from witnesses. A police officer said the driver, who was alone at that time, suffered serious injuries and was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center. As of press time yesterday, the condition of the driver was not clear yet.

October 23, 2007

Water tank near NMC collapses

Residents in Fina Sisu, El Toro, and Kannat Tabla will experience an emergency water outage starting today after one of the temporary tanks installed near the Northern Marianas College collapsed yesterday afternoon. The emergency water outage may continue through Thursday in the three affected areas, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis told Saipan Tribune that 80,000 gallons of water were lost when one of the seven temporary tanks gave way. "There was a big hole. It was more of a slow release but unfortunately, everything that?s in the temporary tank was lost," Mathis said.

Diving, leisure still top reasons for Japanese visits

Despite the continuing decline in the number of Japanese tourists visiting the island of Saipan, diving and pleasure remain the two top reasons why they visit the CNMI. Based on the monthly exit surveys conducted by the Marianas Visitors Authority, majority of Japanese visitors in September visited the Commonwealth for pleasure purposes. Among the 12,794 documented number of visitors from Japan, 7,133 said they were here for vacation and pleasure.

Mt. Carmel Rectory Office, Chalan Kanoa

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

LBC Main Office in Susupe

Drop boxes for unused eyeglasses

The International Association of Lions Clubs in Region 2 District 204, together with Saipan Unity Lions Club, has launched its "Lion Recycle For Sight Program" on Saipan with the distribution of drop boxes where people can drop off their unused glasses and sunglasses.

The drop boxes can now be found at the Mt. Carmel Rectory Office in Chalan Kanoa, LBC Main Office in Susupe, San Vicente Catholic Church in San Vicente, Sta. Remedios Catholic Church in Tanapag and San Roque Catholic Church, the Hardt Eye Clinic on Beach Road, Garapan, and Herman's Modern Bakery on Airport Road.

If you have used eyeglasses you no longer need, you can donate them now. Lions accept prescription and reading glasses, sunglasses, plastic and metal frames. Children's glasses are especially needed. These used eyeglasses will be delivered to regional Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers where volunteers clean, sort by grade, test, and package the glasses. Most of the recycled glasses are distributed to people in need in developing countries.

"Donate your used glasses and change someone's life. Imagine if you could help a child read, an adult succeed in his job, a senior maintain her independence, and provide a community with more opportunities to grow and thrive," said the organization in a statement.

For more information, contact any of the following Region 2, District 204 officers: Pastor Gagaring, 287-7478; Tess Talens, 323-3796; Flor Miranda, 785-9786; Boyet Escober, 789-4030; Joe Digno, 287-4574; Domingo Dones, 989-1566; Agripino Buensalido, 322-1690 Ext. 423. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

San Vicente Catholic Church in San Vicente

Hardt Eye Clinic in Beach Road, Garapan

Sta. Remedios Catholic Church in Tanapag and San Roque Catholic Church.

Herman's Modern Bakery in Airport Road

UOG launches historic Chamorro Studies major

On Oct. 14, Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo signed a proclamation commemorating the creation of a unique and historic program at the University of Guam, a major in Chamorro Studies. This proclamation signing kicked off "*I Sakkan I Inestudian Chamorro*" or a year of events and activities designed to promote this program to the community. This year will kick off with a launch event titled "*I Tinituhun: Inestudian Chamorro gi UOG*" on Oct. 24.

The Chamorro Studies major is a track within the Pacific-Asia Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. The Pacific-Asia Studies Program also features majors in Japanese Studies and East-Asia Studies. Students that major in Chamorro Studies will become fluent in both reading and writing the Chamorro language, and also become well-versed in Chamorro history and culture. The Chamorro Studies program intends to play an active role in terms of the preservation, perpetuation, and promotion of Chamorro language and culture.

» Launch event "I Tinituhun: Inestudian Chamorro gi UOG" Oct. 24

The launch event will feature a day of presentations and performances aimed at introducing the program to the community and informing students as to the professional opportunities a major in Chamorro Studies would offer. Guests on panel presentations will discuss the way that knowledge of Chamorro language, culture and Guam history can enhance your job prospects. Poetry readings, musical performances, writing workshops, and other activities will also take place. The event will feature a performance by Chamorro dance group Rasan Åcho' Latte. All these events will take place in the Humanities and Social Sciences Building at UOG.

That evening the Chamorro Studies program will unveil their Fall Speaker Series, "The Chamorro Language gi Fino' Chamorro." For thousands of years, Chamorros told their story in the Chamorro language or *gi Fino'* Chamorro. At present, due to the decline in use of Chamorro language this is no longer the case. This speaker series will feature the stories of four Chamorros, in the Chamorro language. The first speaker of the series will be Tun Jack Lujan, an internationally recognized Master of Chamorro Culture. He will talk about his life as a blacksmith and the importance of the traditional Chamorro tools to Chamorro culture and history. The lecture will take place in the CLASS Lecture Hall, and a *merienda* will be provided.

The remaining three speakers are Ann Marie Arceo, founder of Hurao Academy (11/7), Flora Baza Quan, the Queen of Chamorro Music (11/14) and Eddie L.G. Benavente (11/20), former Maga'lahi of Nasion Chamoru.

The lecture and the launch event are free and open to the public. ***(UOG)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Govt shutdown: Plenty of lessons to go around

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

President Obama and the Democrats won; Republicans and the "tea party" lost. And both sides are gearing up for next time.

Now that our recent brush with financial crisis is behind us, it's time to start planning for the next one.

That's the problem Congress set up in the stopgap deal that ended the 16-day government shutdown and averted a collision with the debt ceiling. After all the sound and fury, the two parties agreed only on continuing federal spending at its current level until Jan. 15 and raising the debt ceiling until Feb. 7.

This was the epitome of a temporary cease-fire: An arrangement that freezes in place a situation neither side liked to begin with.

The deal didn't solve any of the long-term fiscal worries that landed us in this mess. It didn't even fix the sequester, the meat-ax budget cuts that hit good programs and bad ones without distinction.

Whether we can avoid a repeat performance this winter will depend on what lessons the two sides learn from the fiasco.

Let's take the Democrats first.

"There are no winners here," President Obama said politely Thursday morning as the government reopened.

But his aides and his allies in Congress don't really believe that—at least, not in a practical political sense.

They think the lesson of the crisis was straightforward: Toughness works. When Obama negotiated with House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) in 2011, he lost. The debt ceiling was raised, but Obama lost both on the substance of the issues and in the eyes of many voters. This time, when Obama dug in his heels and refused to negotiate over the debt ceiling, he won.

"Our goal was to prove to them that we were not going to engage with a gun pointed at our head," a White House aide told me. "That's accomplished."

That doesn't mean Obama won't negotiate with Republicans in the next round. Saying he wouldn't negotiate during the shutdown "was only a tactic; it wasn't a basic principle," the aide noted.

In the next round, Democrats hope to be negotiating from a better starting position. They believe Obama has shown he won't be pushed around, and they also are hopeful that Republicans got the message they can't use the debt ceiling as leverage any more.

"It's kryptonite; they won't want to touch it," the aide predicted.

In addition, next year's scheduled sequester cuts will slash defense spending more than this year's, a fact that might spur Republican hawks toward a deal Democrats want to soften both defense and domestic spending cuts.

And what did Republicans learn?

To Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), the Senate Republican leader who negotiated the stopgap deal, the lesson was that government shutdowns end badly for Republicans, and he doesn't want to try another one. "There's no education in the second kick of a mule," McConnell told the conservative magazine National Review last week. "The first kick of the mule was in 1995; the second one was the last 16 days. A government shutdown is off the table. We're not going to do it."

Does that mean every Republican in Congress has sworn off trying to use the debt ceiling as leverage? Not necessarily.

See SHUTDOWN on Next Page

How to build a better flu vaccine for the elderly

By HENRY I. MILLER
Los Angeles Times

Henry I. Miller, a physician and molecular biologist, is a fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He was the founding director of the FDA's Office of Biotechnology from 1989 to 1993.

The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-19 killed 583,135 Americans, according to public health authorities at the time.

Although we no longer suffer such a high rate of flu deaths, during a non-pandemic season, flu still kills on average thousands each year in this country. From the 1976-77 season to the 2006-07 season, flu-associated deaths ranged from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Vaccination is the key to prevention. According to recent estimates from the CDC, in six influenza seasons, starting in 2005-06, flu vaccination against a variety of strains prevented 13.59 million cases (and as a result, 5.8 million medically attended illnesses and 112,875 hospital admissions).

Because flu viruses mutate frequently, vaccines are reformulated each winter as a mixture of virus strains predicted to prevail during the next season. Depending on how good those selections are, during a given season the overall effectiveness is usually in the range of 50 percent to 80 percent.

But within the population, vaccines' effectiveness varies widely because it is affected by various factors, including the general health and age of the recipient. Although people 65 and older make up only 15 percent of the U.S. population, on average they account for about 60 percent of the 200,000 hospitalizations and 90 percent of the thousands of deaths attributed to seasonal flu and its complications each year.

This phenomenon is due at least in part to poor responses to flu vaccines in the elderly. Scientists at the National Institutes of Health reviewed 31 vaccine antibody response studies conducted from 1986 to 2002 comparing groups of elderly and younger adults. They concluded that "the antibody response in the elderly is considerably lower than in younger adults" and called for "more immunogenic vaccine formulations for the elderly."

These data are consistent with the analysis by the CDC of the 2012-13 flu season, which found that the vaccines' effectiveness for all ages against influenza A subtype H3N2, the most common strain during that season, was 44 percent, compared with only 19 percent for people older than 64.

A bit of promising news is the preliminary conclusion of a large-scale, multi-center efficacy trial in people 65 or older of a vaccine formulation that contained four times the amount of antigen (the stuff against which the immune response is targeted). But it boosted the response rate from 19 percent to only 23.6 percent, which is far from satisfactory. We need clinical studies to find ways to do better. Much better.

Scientists at the Food and Drug Administration and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine recently provided a physiological explanation for the age-related differences in effectiveness of flu vaccine: diminished levels of activity of a key immune system enzyme in people 50 to 80 years old. That decrease correlates with "a decline in the ability of the immune system to 'redesign' antibodies so they become increasingly more effective against influenza."

These epidemiological and biochemical findings indicate a need to study systematically ways to increase the effectiveness of flu vaccination in the elderly. In their article reviewing antibody response studies, the NIH group offered several suggestions for future clinical trials of vaccine efficacy (against any strain of flu) in the elderly.

- Stratify over-65 subjects into five- to 10-year age groups.
- Gather data on whether subjects had been vaccinated during the previous flu season.
- Ascertain whether individual subjects live in an institution (such as a nursing home) or independently.
- Measure all of the three standard blood tests that quantify the response to vaccines.

I would add several more:

- Include vaccines of two types—one with virus that is inactivated and another with live but weakened virus—in separate groups in the study. Include vaccines with and without adjuvants (chemicals mixed with the viral antigen to boost the immune response).
- Study the effects of increased amounts of vaccine and more doses.

If there are any such formulations sufficiently advanced, we could also add to the list of variables a "universal" flu vaccine, the holy grail of flu prevention: a vaccine that would target a part of the virus that remains unchanged among different strains in spite of new mutations, so that a vaccination could protect against even novel strains for many flu seasons. The drug company Sanofi has taken such a vaccine to the stage of testing in animals.

In order to study all of these variables and to get the necessary statistical power for meaningful results, such a complex trial would require thousands of patients and tens of millions of dollars. But the knowledge gained could ultimately reduce morbidity and mortality in the elderly and provide a significant public health advance, especially in the event of a pandemic.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Infamous Obamacare

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The growing controversy over Obamacare has shifted from civility to incendiary. All that President Obama promised never came to fruition. It became a "bait and switch" scheme to sell his socialized healthcare signature policy that has crashed all over the country.

There's only one aspect that I find a major advantage for patients everywhere. It's the accommodation of pre-existing conditions entailing serious illnesses from cancer to genetic disorders. Even this aspect of the program still requires rock solid answers but we can't figure out for as long Obamacare is mired in Glitchcare. For now, our best bet is Nancy Pelosi-esque chime, "Let's approve it now and find out what's in it later." This discovery is but devastation!

Troubling, though, the complete reversal from Mr. O's repeated promises that we can keep family physicians, health premium policies, and some $2,500 in savings for would-be beneficiaries. Mr. President, a lot of families lost literally everything you promised. Isn't the postponement of the Affordable Care Act for another year the more appropriate course of action until glitches are fixed? Why throw the innocent under the bus?

Moreover, the program is basically designed to cover health bills for the poorer sector of the population. The hidden goal is to enroll as many as three million young people targeted to defray such cost. But the designated group isn't enamored taking up health plans that mean an arm and a leg when their current policies are far cheaper. What does it mean if this goal fails? We get more of the brunt when it is passed down to participants.

Obama's unilateral decision to exempt big corporations and Congress from the law while making it applicable to everybody else isn't sitting well with folks across the country. At issue are the inequities of the decision and the violation of the separation of powers (amendment to federal laws), an authority solely reserved to Congress.

Trying to enter the website is problematic in itself. Perhaps this is due to two software programs prepared and installed separately by two separate firms. Thus the glitch and more glitches, a botched-up roll out from the outset and it doesn't look like there's a fix anywhere in sight soon.

Congress did what it had to do while skirting the greater issues like the viability of social security, Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps or SNAP, and paying off a $17 trillion federal deficit.

Obama wasn't willing to compromise political ideology as to be oblivious to hardship citizens had to endure on a rosy policy that crash-landed in "bait and switch" schemes across the country. He remains enamored in his lectures, delusional.

Emulating bankrupt European countries struggling to pay their way through socialized medicine and other entitlement programs is best left alone. Let's return, Mr. President, to the economic pillars that made our country an exceptional nation.

If the other goal is to depower Republicans, then the GOP came out of the blistering wrestling match swinging as they head home to listen some more to grassroots citizens in their districts rebuke Mr. O's unaffordable healthcare program. The colossal mess is as useless as it is disgusting.

Appalling that the most intelligent folks in DC have ably demonstrated there's such a thing as being so smart as to be so dumb, too.

Pacific Ring of Fire

Call it intuition, but the issue of major earthquakes and mega-tsunami keeps returning to mind. Perhaps I must have been religiously following a documentary on the mega-tsunami that took place in Alaska years ago. It spared nothing in its way and not with a 100-foot solid wave, 100 miles long, running at a speed of 500 miles per hour.

Or is it my fascination with the depth and length of the Pacific Ring of Fire? The active geological fault downstairs is located east of the Marianas, runs up east of Japan all the way down to the Philippines and Indonesia.

Some areas are as deep as 30-40 miles down so you could imagine its depth. What happens when a 12-mile rock solid wall crumbles into the deep? Isn't this the trigger for a mega-tsunami? Is the eastern side of the island tall enough to ward off a 100-foot tsunami, 100 miles long heading to the CNMI at 500 miles per hour?

Even more troubling is the non-existent of technology mankind could use to predict earthquakes. When Mother Nature hits—earth crust downstairs moving heavily against each other—fractures send off jolts we can't handle other than to say it's a powerful earthquake. Big ones are usually fatal and disastrous in regions like the recent event on island communities off Cebu in the Philippines. Perhaps the most painful aspect of it is the death and destruction such temblor inflicts when hit and brought to complete halt and shock from their daily routine.

Troubling though how it resembles an object in the rearview mirror that recedes and reappear time and again. Hope it isn't an omen of a fatal major disaster headed our way.

Miscellany

The greater temblor has jolted and derailed the livelihood of about 3,000 retirees. While pension payment is constitutionally protected, there's the greater reality that absent any major infusion of revenue streams, the amount in deductions could very well increase in the near term.

As difficult as it may be, this is the fiscal reality or posture of the NMI government struggling for oxygen in the filthy swamp of $1.4 billion in cumulative deficit. Such fiscal posture prevents economic growth, further envenomed by the prohibitively high cost of utilities.

It should be understood by policymakers that it takes a healthy private industry to turn things around. Piling it with disoriented policies, fees, and taxes would exact the complete opposite. Herein lies the most troubling aspect of policymaking where simple apprehension of issues is missing. Therefore, the persistent use of failed policies with "business as usual" behavior while obligations increase by leaps and bounds. Hello? Anybody home?

US badly needs political reforms

By ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
The Miami Herald

Andres Oppenheimer is a Latin America correspondent for The Miami Herald, *3511 N.W. 91 Avenue, Doral, Fla. 33172; email: aoppenheimer@miamiherald.com.*

The U.S. government, which loves to lecture other countries on how to run their affairs, would do well in learning some lessons from other nations in order to avoid a repeat of last week's costly—and embarrassing—government shutdown.

I know this is anathema to the right-wing "tea party" legislators who shut down the government and almost caused a U.S. debt default in their crusade to destroy President Obama's health care law, but Washington could even get some valuable lessons from Mexico, the country that the tea party extremists love to hate.

Much like the United States, Mexico had long faced a seemingly terminal political paralysis that kept it from passing any meaningful laws for many years.

In Mexico's case, it was because the country has a three-party political system, in which all government-backed initiatives were systematically shot down by the two parties that happened to be in the opposition. Governments changed hands, but the two-against-one system kept the country paralyzed.

Then, in December 2012, under pressure from an increasingly frustrated public, Mexico's three major political parties signed the Pact for Mexico, a 95-point deal to break congressional gridlock and approve several key reforms.

Among the Pact's biggest goals were passing long-delayed education, telecommunications, fiscal and energy reforms. Since then, Mexico has already passed ground-breaking education and telecom reforms, and its lower house of Congress last week approved a much debated fiscal reform.

Granted, the Pact for Mexico has a long way to go, and many don't like some of its results so far. There is even speculation that it may collapse when the time comes to vote on the politically explosive, government-backed energy reform.

But even if the Pact for Mexico died today, it will already have accomplished much more than what the U.S. Congress has done in recent years, which is basically nothing.

Last week's U.S. agreement to re-open the government, while bringing a universal sigh of relief, only kicked the problem forwards until a new deadline of Jan. 15 for funding the government.

Like other countries before it, the United States may badly need a Mexico-style political agreement, or, if that doesn't work—and it very possibly won't—an even more dramatic political reform.

The country has a structural political problem: U.S. presidential and congressional election rules have degenerated into a system that rewards extremism and discourages compromise.

Under the current system of presidential primaries, for instance, Republicans start their presidential candidate's selection process in Iowa, where a relatively small population of ultra-conservative voters drives all Republican hopefuls to swing sharply to the right. Why not hold primaries across the country on the same day, so as to make them more geographically representative?

Also, under the current system of congressional elections, thanks to a process known as gerrymandering—whereby Republican or Democratic-run states have carved their congressional districts according to their respective convenience—most congressional districts are overwhelmingly Republican, or Democratic.

As a result, there is little political competition between the two parties for most seats in Congress, which gives extremists—who tend to be the most politically active people in their districts—extraordinary power. Why not redesign congressional districts to restore some genuine competition?

Former Chilean President Ricardo Lagos, one of the smartest political analysts I know, told me in a telephone conversation that Washington may need a radical political reform along the lines of Spain's 1977 Moncloa Pact.

"In Spain, the outgoing Congress committed hara-kiri, and gave the next Congress the power to make constitutional changes to carry out political reforms," Lagos said.

In the U.S. case, Congress could either do that, or appoint an independent, high-level commission to redesign electoral districts and to create a system of simultaneous nationwide primaries, he said.

"Two hundred years from now, historians may look at last week's government shutdown as the beginning of the end of the United States," Lagos told me. "Unless there is a political reform, we are going to see the same sorry spectacle on Jan. 15."

My opinion: I fully agree, especially with the suggestion that the current Congress should commit hara-kiri. Contrary to conventional wisdom, last week's government shutdown wasn't a personality issue of a few deranged legislators, but a deeper problem of voting rules that help elect zealots.

Unless Washington signs a Mexico-style political pact or comes up with another solution to fix its primary and congressional election rules, I'm afraid we will see a new crisis on Jan. 15, and many others thereafter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clarification

Your newspaper did a good job of reporting on my presentation titled "The Political Status Talks of the Early 1970's that Led to the Plebiscite Vote on Commonwealth Status: A Personal Perspective" that was given on Oct. 8, 2013 at the Northern Marianas College. While the article was accurate, the headline was misleading. I said, "The Northern Marianas may have given up too much to the U.S…." Your headline read, "The CNMI gave too much for US citizenship, federal benefits." There is a big difference between what I said and your headline. Thank you for your attention.

Lupe Borja-Robinson
via email

SHUTDOWN

From Page 10

To some of the tea party members of Congress who spearheaded the doomed strategy to demand an end to Obama's healthcare law as the price of keeping the government open, the lesson was that their own party wasn't tough enough.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. West winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

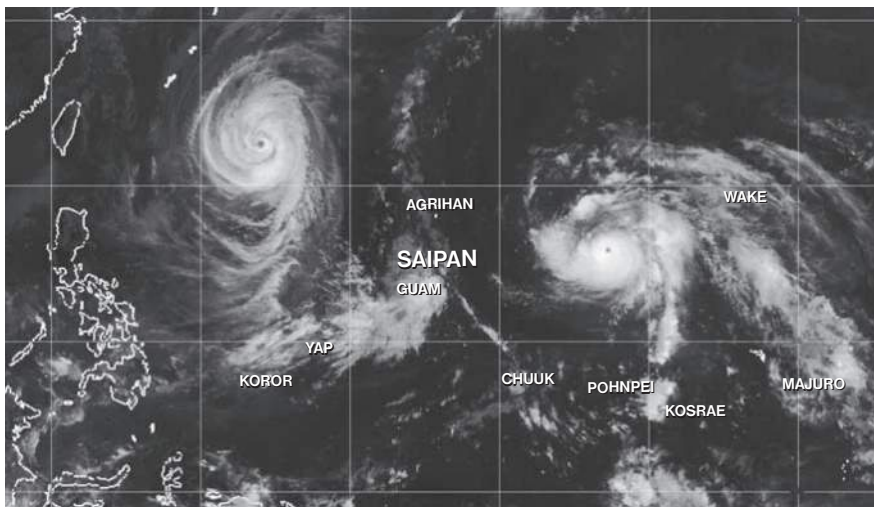
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼79
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲65	▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲61	▼41
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲83	▼71
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼71
London	Showers	▲63	▼50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲79	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼74
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼45
Osaka	Rain	▲72	▼64
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼53
Pusan	Windy	▲71	▼60
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼64
Salem	Sunny	▲73	▼42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲75	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼50
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲67	▼61
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼50

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Francisco (26W) is centered northwest of the Marianas at 22N134E moving north-northwest at 10 mph with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found up to 200 miles from the center. For more information on Francisco, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM. Typhoon Lekima (28W) is centered 800 miles east of the Marianas at 15N158E moving northwest at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are located within 250 miles of the center. For more information on Typhoon Lekima, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and public advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. A band of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms strings south of Lekima to just east of Pohnpei from 5N to 15N between 160E and 162E. In addition, a long band of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms is located east of Lekima within 150 miles of a line from 7N175E to 22N160E. This band stretches from just east of Majuro to just west of Wake Island. A surface trough along the ITCZ east of Majuro is helping the formation of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 80 miles of a line from 6N173E to east of 6N180E. Converging southwest winds along the outer periphery of Typhoon Francisco from west of Koror through the area around Yap and over most of the southern Marianas are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 8N132E to 11N140E to 14N145E. From this point, another thin line of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms wraps around Typhoon Lekima within 50 miles of 14N145E to 7N152E near Chuuk to 4N155E and up to the band just east of Pohnpei at 6N160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:09 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
12:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
10:24 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	5:52 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:13 PM	9:33 AM
Thursday	10:01 PM	10:21 AM
Friday	10:50 PM	11:08 AM
Saturday	11:39 PM	11:52 AM
Sunday		12:34 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:10pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
0Z604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	7:55am	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

FHB posts net income of $50.9 million in Q3

» Deposits reach record $13.1 billion

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank reported yesterday third quarter 2013 net income of $50.9 million, a 0.6-percent gain over the same quarter of 2012. Net income for the nine months ended Sept. 30, 2013, was $155.4 million, a 5.1-percent decrease from third quarter 2012. The reduction in year-to-date net income is due primarily to a gain on sale of leased equipment recorded in 2012, and lower gains on sales of securities in 2013 as compared to the prior year. Excluding the one-time gain on sale of leased equipment and gains on sales of securities, net income for the first nine months of 2013 increased by 4.1 percent over the adjusted first nine months of 2012.

Total assets grew to $16.7 billion, an increase of 3.7 percent. The announcement was made by Bob Harrison, First Hawaiian Bank president and CEO.

"We continue to see strong loan growth in a recovering marketplace," said Harrison. "The bank performed well this quarter with both deposits and assets achieving solid gains. We expect to see continued steady economic improvement as more projects begin construction."

At Sept. 30, 2013, First Hawaiian Bank achieved the following over the prior year:

- Total assets reached $16.7 billion, up 3.7 percent.
- Total deposits were $13.1 billion, an increase of 3.1 percent.
- Total loans and leases were $9.3 billion up 7.4 percent.
- Non-performing assets to total assets remained one of the lowest in the industry at 0.20 percent.
- Efficiency ratio was 46.2 percent making First Hawaiian the most productive bank in Hawaii and one of the most efficient in the nation.

For the third quarter of 2013, First Hawaiian noted several accomplishments and milestones:

- First Hawaiian Bank launched Mobile Deposit which offers customers the convenience of depositing a check into their account by snapping a photo of the check with their smartphone or iPad. It was the first bank to offer this service in Guam.
- The bank's quarterly Business Activity Report showed Hawaii credit and debit card sales transactions up almost 6.0 percent in the third quarter over the previous year, with 15 out of 16 sectors posting positive gains. This was the 15th consecutive quarter of overall positive growth since 2010. The BAR measures credit and debit sales transactions in 16 sectors, providing a broad measure of economic activity.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with $16.7 billion in total assets was founded in 1858 and is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNP Paribas, a leading global financial services institution. ***(FHB)***

New iPads likely to star in Apple's latest show

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple is expected to round out its line-up of gadgets for the holiday shopping season with the Tuesday unveiling of its latest iPads.

The San Francisco showcase is likely to feature remodeled versions of Apple's standard-sized iPad with a 10-inch display screen and the iPad Mini with a nearly 8-inch screen. Hewing to its usually tight-lipped ways, Apple Inc. hasn't shared details about what's on the agenda. The Cupertino, Calif. company merely sent out invitations that said, "We still have a lot to cover."

Apple's secrecy notwithstanding, glimpses of the revamped iPads have been showing up in videos posted on the Internet, including on websites that provided early—and accurate—peeks at the new iPhones Apple rolled out last month.

It will be a shock if Apple isn't taking the wraps off new iPads on Tuesday because it has been nearly a year since the previous generation came out. This would be the fifth generation of Apple's tablet computer. The original iPad debuted in early 2010 and accelerated the consumer shift away from traditional laptop and desktop computers. Tablets, including rival devices inspired by the iPad, are now outselling laptops.

If the unauthorized previews of the new iPads are correct, this year's standard-sized model is getting a more noticeable makeover than last year.

The funny math of clothing sizes

NEW YORK (AP)—When it comes to women's clothing sizes, there's some funny math going on.

The average American woman is about 25 pounds heavier than she was in 1960. Yet women's plus-size clothing, generally defined as size 14 and up, still makes up only about 9 percent of the $190 billion spent annually on clothes.

What's wrong with this equation? It's not that plus-size women aren't into fashion. Rather, the fashion industry doesn't seem interested in them.

The fashion industry has long spent more time, money and marketing on clothing for taut bodies than for curvier ones because it's easier and more profitable to do so. But retail analysts and plus-size women say there's something else at play: Stereotypes about larger women not wanting to dress fashionably keep companies from making clothes that are flattering to them. And in turn, that discourages them from spending more.

"There is still an interesting stigma attached to plus-size fashion and the woman who wears it," says Marie Denee, who wears a size 16 and studies the industry via her website TheCurvyFashionista.com. "Many think `Oh, she doesn't want to draw attention, live life, date, be confident, wear fitted clothes with bold colors and patterns,' when the exact opposite is true."

Carmen Barrington, 32, says that attitude has resulted in fewer plus-size options. Barrington, who wears around a size 22, lamented recently after a day of shopping at Forever 21, Lane Bryant and other stores that she sometimes can't even find decent plus-size clothing at retailers that specialize in it.

"It was a hot, annoying day, and I spent it trying on stuff, and came up with nothing," Barrington, who works in human resources, says. "There's this aversion to being associated with plus-size clothes."

To be sure, sizing is an inexact science. Women's sizes were developed in the 1920s as catalogues became popular and ready-to-wear clothing replaced tailor made or self-sewn items.

But while a system of men's standard sizing based on chest sizes in the Army had worked well, a similar attempt to base women's sizes on bust measurements wasn't as reliable. Women's bust sizes are more variable.

In the 1930s, retailers began adopting even-numbered sizes commonly ranging from 14 to 24, says Alaina Zulli, a dressmaker who studies costume history. But those sizes bore little resemblance to those used today—a size 24 back then, for instance, would be a size 14 today—so the issues of not having enough plus-size fashions likely was not as pronounced.

The sizes stayed the same but the numbers decreased gradually, Zulli says, about 1 size a decade. This is known as "vanity sizing" because it gives women the impression that they're fitting into a smaller size.

Women's sizes, which today range from 0 to 24 but vary from store to store, haven't evolved much for decades. And for the most part, neither have the range of plus-size fashions.

As a result, the amount spent on women's plus-size clothing annually has only risen by one percentage point to 9 percent since 2011, the furthest back plus-size data available from research firm NPD Group.

"If the offering becomes stronger, women will spend more," says Alison Levy, a retail strategist at consulting firm Kurt Salmon. "There's a significant dollar opportunity in what is currently a very depressed apparel segment that retailers should be looking to exploit."

Some retailers have started to do just that. H&M, a European-based retailer that sells trendy clothing in the U.S. equivalent of sizes 1 through 16, last summer featured plus-size model Jennie Runk, who is a size 12 or 14, in its swimsuit ads. "Our aim is not to convey a certain message or show an ideal, but to have a campaign which can illustrate the collection in an inspiring and clear way," said Andrea Roos, an H&M spokeswoman.

Lane Bryant, a plus size retailer, said earlier this month that it is expanding into higher-end designer clothing. It will debut its first designer collaboration with Isabel and Ruben Toledo on a collection of holiday clothes and later a spring line.

"This is a big deal for us and we're treating it in that manner in every way we can," said Linda Heasley, Lane Bryant's CEO.

And online retailer Asos three years ago launched a plus-size category called Asos Curve with sizes 14 to 24. The company fits everything on a size 16 model to "ensure we are offering the right fit and comfort to our customers," says Natasha Smith, an Asos Curve buyer. The company wouldn't disclose sales figures but said they've been stronger each season.

"Our customer comes in all shapes and sizes and our range should reflect that," Smith says.

But for every chain adding to their plus-size offerings, there are many others that continue to cater to smaller sizes. Abercrombie & Fitch, for instance, has been criticized for only offering sizes 0 to 10 and its CEO's comments that the chain caters to "cool" and "attractive" kids.

This undated image provided by H&M shows plus-size model Jennie Runk, who is a size 12 or 14, in a swimsuit ad from 2012.
AP

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,392.20	1,744.66	3,920.05
-7.45	+0.16	+5.77
-0.05%	+0.01%	+0.15%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0365	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7527	Philippine Peso	43.2400
British Pound	0.6202	Indian Rupee	61.7300	Singapore Dollar	1.2418
Canadian Dollar	1.0304	Indonesian Rupiah	11,335.0	South Korean Won	1,061.3
Chinese Yuan	6.0955	Japanese Yen	98.3200	Swiss Franc	0.9033
Euro	0.7317	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1798	Taiwan Dollar	29.4800
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1838	Thailand Baht	31.1500

Nation

Nev. student opens fire, kills teacher and himself

SPARKS, Nev. (AP)—A student at a Nevada middle school opened fire with a semi-automatic handgun on campus just before the starting bell Monday, wounding two 12-year-old boys and killing a math teacher who was trying to protect children from their classmate.

The unidentified shooter killed himself with the gun after a rampage that occurred in front of 20 to 30 horrified students who had just returned to school from a weeklong fall break. Authorities did not provide a motive for the shooting, and it's unknown where the student got the gun.

Teacher Michael Landsberry was being hailed for his actions during the shooting outside Sparks Middle School.

"In my estimation, he is a hero. ... We do know he was trying to intervene," Reno Deputy Police Chief Tom Robinson said.

Both wounded students were listed in stable condition. One was shot in the shoulder, and the other was hit in the abdomen.

The violence erupted nearly a year after a gunman shocked the nation by opening fire in Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., leaving 26 dead. The Dec. 14 shooting ignited debate over how best to protect the nation's schools and whether armed teachers should be part of that equation.

AP

A Sparks Middle School student cries and is comforted after being released from Agnes Risley Elementary School, where some students were evacuated to after a shooting at SMS in Sparks, Nev.

Landsberry, 45, was a military veteran and leaves behind a wife and two stepdaughters. Sparks Mayor Geno Martini said Landsberry served two tours in Afghanistan with the Nevada National Guard.

"He proudly served his country and was proudly defending the students at his school," Martini said.

On his school website, Landsberry posted a picture of a brown bear and took on a tough-love tone, telling students, "I have one classroom rule and it is very simple: `Thou Shall Not Annoy Mr. L.'"

"The kids loved him," his sister-in-law Chanda Landsberry said.

She added his life could be summed up by his love of his family, his students and his country.

"To hear that he was trying to stop that is not surprising by any means," she said.

Police said 150 to 200 officers responded to the shooting, including some from as far as 60 miles away. Students from the middle school and neighboring elementary school were evacuated to the nearby high school, and classes were canceled. The middle school will remain closed for the week.

"As you can imagine, the best description is chaos," Robinson said. "It's too early to say whether he was targeting people or going on an indiscriminate shooting spree."

At the evacuation center, parents comforted their children.

"We came flying down here to get our kids," said Mike Fiorica, whose nephew attends the school. "You can imagine how parents are feeling. You don't know if your kid's OK."

The shooting happened on the school's campus and ended outside the school building, according to police.

"I was deeply saddened to learn of the horrific shooting at Sparks Middle School this morning," Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval said in a statement extending his thoughts and prayers to those affected.

About 700 students in 7th and 8th grades are enrolled at the school, in a working class neighborhood.

"It's not supposed to happen here," Chanda Landsberry said. "We're just Sparks—little Sparks, Nevada. It's unreal."

Obama: 'No excuse' for health care signup problems

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Monday offered "no excuses"—and little explanation—for the computer bugs still frustrating Americans who are trying to enroll online for insurance plans at the center of his health care law. But software developers tasked with building the site said they saw signs a year ago that the debut could fail.

One source of the troubles appears to be the testing procedures employed before the rollout three weeks ago. Several developers of the HealthCare.gov website told The Associated Press they were worried for months about the system's readiness and whether the software meant to link key computer systems was being properly put through its paces.

In addition, congressional investigators raised concerns recently that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services had taken on the job of testing the computer systems for the new markets during the final weeks before the sign-ups opened Oct. 1. That job is often handled by specialized software companies.

Obama, who emphasized the website's simplicity in the week's leading up to the insurance sign-ups, acknowledged there could now be "no sugarcoating" the problems even as he talked up the benefits of the law at a Rose Garden event that had the feel of a pep rally.

"The website that's supposed to make it easy to apply for and purchase the insurance is not working the way it should for everybody," he said.

He insisted that the problems would be fixed and all Americans seeking insurance would be able to sign up. But it was not clear how quickly that would happen. The administration is beefing up call centers and encouraging more people to enroll over the phone while the website problems persist.

The flood of computer problems since the website went online has been deeply embarrassing for the White House. The glitches have called into question whether the administration is capable of implementing the complex policy and why senior White House officials—including the president—appear to have been unaware of the scope of the problems when the health insurance markets, known as exchanges, opened.

NJ governor ends gay marriage fight as couples wed

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Gov. Chris Christie dropped his fight against gay marriage in New Jersey on Monday, framing the decision in a pragmatic way: No point in fighting a losing battle.

Just hours after gay couples began exchanging vows with the blessing of New Jersey's Supreme Court, Christie announced he was withdrawing his appeal to the high court.

New Jersey is the 14th state to legalize gay marriage.

As the Republican governor seeks re-election two weeks from now and ponders a run for president in 2016, Christie's decision holds both risks and benefits for him.

It delighted gay rights activists and could enhance Christie's appeal to independents and moderates of both parties. But it angered members of the GOP's conservative wing, which already distrusts Christie and wields outsized influence in some state primaries.

Bob McAlister, a veteran Republican strategist in South Carolina, said Christie's latest move "is absolutely going to hurt him."

"Abandoning foundational principles that go beyond politics is not the way to get positive attention in South Carolina," he said.

Brian Brown, president of the conservative National Organization for Marriage, said he was "extremely disappointed" with Christie's decision, which he portrayed as "effectively throwing in the towel on marriage."

Last year, the New Jersey Legislature passed a bill to legalize gay marriage, but Christie vetoed it. The issue ended up before Christie again after a trial-level judge ruled last month that the state must allow same-sex couples to wed.

Christie appealed that ruling to the state Supreme Court. The court agreed to take up the case but unanimously refused on Friday to delay the start of gay weddings in the meantime, saying the state had little chance of prevailing in its appeal. Same-sex couples began exchanging vows Monday just after midnight.

Advisers to the governor said that in dropping the appeal, Christie had stayed true to his principles.

"Although the governor strongly disagrees with the court substituting its judgment for the constitutional process of the elected branches or a vote of the people, the court has now spoken clearly as to their view of the New Jersey Constitution and, therefore, same-sex marriage is the law," Christie spokesman Michael Drewniak said in a statement.

France joins list of allies angry over NSA spying

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joining a growing list of angry allies, France on Monday demanded an explanation from Washington of a report that the U.S. swept up 70 million French telephone records and text messages in its global surveillance net, even recording certain private conversations.

The fallout prompted a phone call from President Barack Obama to President Francois Hollande and, the White House said, an acknowledgment by Obama that the episode raises "legitimate questions for our friends and allies" about how U.S. surveillance capabilities are employed. Hollande's office issued a strongly worded statement afterward expressing "profound reprobation" over U.S. actions that it said intruded on the private lives of French citizens.

Spying among friendly countries is classic tradecraft but the sweep and scope of the National Security Agency program have surprised allies and raised indignation among those targeted—Germany, Mexico and Brazil among them.

The report in Le Monde, co-written by Glenn Greenwald, who originally revealed the surveillance program based on leaks from former NSA analyst Edward Snowden, found that when certain phone numbers were used, conversations were automatically recorded. The surveillance operation also gathered text messages based on key words, Le Monde reported.

"This sort of practice between partners that invades privacy is totally unacceptable and we have to make sure, very quickly, that this no longer happens," French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said. "We fully agree that we cooperate to fight terrorism. It is indispensable. But this does not justify that personal data of millions of our compatriots are snooped on."

Seeking to limit damage in relations with one of America's closest allies, Obama called Hollande late Monday and made clear the U.S. government is reviewing its intelligence-gathering "so that we properly balance the legitimate security concerns of our citizens and allies with the privacy concerns that all people share," a White House statement said. The statement said some recent disclosures have "distorted our activities" while others have raised genuine concerns by other countries.

Asia

Communist rebels kill nine Filipino troops

KIDAPAWAN, Philippines (AP)—Communist rebels attacked Philippine troops twice with roadside bombs and gunfire on Monday, killing nine soldiers and militiamen and wounding five others in the country's south, officials said.

About 50 New People's Army guerrillas detonated a buried explosive and then opened fire on an army truck, killing eight soldiers and militiamen and wounding one soldier in a mountainous region in Tulunan town in North Cotabato province, regional army spokesman Lt. Nasrulah Sema said. The soldiers were on their way to deliver cash allowances to militiamen at a rural outpost.

About an hour later, another truckload of soldiers that was deployed to hunt down the rebels was struck by a bomb and fired upon by guerrillas in North Cotabato's Makilala town, killing a soldier and wounding four others, Sema said.

Troops were hunting the guerrillas, who withdrew toward a wooded area, he said. The military condemned the rebel use of buried explosives, saying they also endanger civilians.

Battle setbacks, factionalism and surrenders have reduced the number of armed communist guerrillas to about 4,000 from a peak of about 25,000 in the mid-1980s, but they remain a major national security threat.

Talks brokered by Norway on ending the 44-year rebellion, one of Asia's longest, collapsed several years ago due to disagreement over a rebel demand for the release of jailed comrades.

Extradition deal key to nabbing fugitives

By ZHANG YAN and CHEN WEIHUA
CHINA DAILY

Signing an extradition treaty with the United States is essential to China's ongoing efforts to capture and repatriate economic fugitives, a senior security official has said.

Yet experts on both sides said an agreement may be unlikely in the short term, as obstacles and misunderstandings remain over China's judicial system and progress in human rights protection.

According to China's Ministry of Public Security, at least 150 Chinese economic fugitives, many of them corrupt officials, are hiding in the U.S.

Over the past 10 years, however, just two people wanted on criminal charges have been repatriated.

"We face practical difficulties in getting back fugitives who have escaped to the U.S. due to the lack of an extradition treaty, as well as the complex and lengthy U.S. legal procedures," said Liao Jinrong, director of the ministry's international cooperation bureau.

Some progress has been made in judicial cooperation in recent years, but it has been slow and is still far from enough, he said.

Justice officials from both countries meet every year, in August or September, to discuss major cases, and the ministry says it is attempting to set up an annual high-level meeting, such as with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to exchange intelligence with the view to repatriating criminals and recovering illegal assets.

There is a willingness in the U.S. to cooperate, Liao said, "but we hope the U.S. can be more understanding of China's judicial procedures... and be more active in responding to our request for an extradition treaty, which is essential."

Much of the cooperation between China and the U.S. now is done through Interpol.

Once the organization issues a red notice, an international arrest warrant for an individual, Chinese police provide information and evidence to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to request assistance with an investigation.

"Once a case goes to the U.S. authorities, they do not disclose details to us because of privacy concerns," said Liao. "Usually it takes several years to get a deportation order, and as long as the criminals pay a lawyer to defend themselves they can constantly appeal to higher courts."

Legal experts agree progress in cooperation is being made, but they flagged several challenges in the relationship that stand in the way of a treaty.

Jerome Cohen, a law professor at New York University and an expert on China's legal system, cited the countries' Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement, signed 13 years ago, and the improvement in "informal, ad hoc" exchanges over the past decade as examples that things have moved forward.

"Both countries would benefit from the further progress that an extradition treaty would represent," he said. "But I don't think conditions are ripe yet for meeting this challenge."

The U.S. already has a treaty with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, but reaching the same agreement with the Chinese mainland would require substantial changes to its legal system and human rights policies, he said.

"The most difficult obstacle will be American concerns about use of the criminal justice system to punish people for conduct that is protected in the U.S., and about the fairness of criminal prosecutions in China," Cohen explained.

"In the present circumstances, it would be politically and legally impossible for the U.S. government to agree by treaty to send anyone to China for prosecution, including Chinese nationals.

"The best that can be done is to negotiate case by case specific guaranties that suit the individual situation," he said. "My hope is that criminal justice reforms will continue to be made in China."

Experts in China argue that political rather than legal conflicts are holding back an extradition treaty.

In the U.S., where the executive, judicial and legislative powers are separated, Congress must ratify any extradition treaty.

"However, the U.S. Congress does not trust China's human rights protection, and some of them do not have enough understanding of the Chinese judicial and social developments," said Huang Feng, a professor at Beijing Normal University's College for Criminal Law Science.

The U.S. government also wants to cooperate, he said, "so it seems learning how to rid Congress of its old beliefs about our country and political system is the key to ending the dispute."

Fu Yu, a specialist on international law formerly at Chongqing Southwest University of Political Science and Law, suggested finding common ground in economic investments.

"Congress is also concerned about the U.S. economy," he said. "It should see settling legal problems as tackling economic or commercial problems, which may be easier to negotiate than talking about judicial differences."

Super smog hits north China city; flights canceled

A woman wearing a mask walk through a street covered by dense smog in Harbin, northern China, Monday, Oct. 21, 2013.
AP

BEIJING (AP)—Visibility shrank to less than half a football field and small-particle pollution soared to a record 40 times higher than an international safety standard in one northern Chinese city as the region entered its high-smog season.

The manager for U.S. jazz singer Patti Austin, meanwhile, said the singer had canceled a concert in Beijing because of an asthma attack likely linked to pollution.

Winter typically brings the worst air pollution to northern China because of a combination of weather conditions and an increase in the burning of coal for homes and municipal heating systems, which usually starts on a specific date. For the large northern city of Harbin, the city's heating systems kicked in on Sunday, and on Monday visibility there was less than 50 meters (yards), according to state media.

"I couldn't see anything outside the window of my apartment, and I thought it was snowing," Wu Kai, 33, a housewife and mother of a baby boy, said in a telephone interview from Harbin. "Then I realized it wasn't snow. I have not seen the sun for a long time."

She said her husband went to work in a mask, that he could barely see a few meters (yards) ahead of him and that his usual bus had stopped running.

"It's scary, too dangerous. How could people drive or walk on such a day?"

The density of fine particulate matter, PM2.5, used as an indicator of air quality was well above 600 micrograms per cubic meter—including several readings of exactly 1,000—for several monitoring stations in Harbin, according to figures posted on the website of China's environmental protection agency. They were the first known readings of 1,000 since China began releasing figures on PM2.5 in January 2012, and it was not immediately clear if the devices used for monitoring could give readings higher than that.

A safe level under WHO guidelines is 25 micrograms per cubic meter.

Primary and middle schools and some highways were closed, said authorities in the city, which is in China's northernmost province bordering Russia. At least 40 flights to destinations in southern China and Beijing among others were canceled or postponed at Harbin's Taiping International Airport on Monday morning.

Austin's management team said the 63-year-old singer had been treated in a hospital Friday morning for an asthma attack in combination with a respiratory infection. She returned to her hotel later Friday to rest, but was unable to perform at her Beijing concert scheduled for Friday evening. Her Saturday night concert in Shanghai went ahead.

Her manager, Barry Orms, said Monday that Austin, as an asthma sufferer, would have been "affected by the amount of pollution." He said that it wasn't their goal to place blame, and that "Patti has expressed our belief that the Chinese government can be a leader in this very important issue."

On the morning ahead of her concert Friday, Beijing's air was visibly polluted, with the city's environmental monitoring center warning children, the elderly and those with respiratory illnesses to reduce outdoor activity.

China's major cities have some of the world's worst smog. The government was long indifferent to the environment as it pursued economic development, but has begun launching some anti-pollution initiatives after mounting public frustration.

Last month, China's Cabinet released an action plan that aims to make a small reduction in the country's heavy reliance on coal to below 65 percent of total energy usage by 2017. According to Chinese government statistics, coal consumption accounted for 68.4 percent of total energy use in 2011.

17 die as truck falls into gorge in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Seventeen people returning from a wedding were killed when the truck they were riding in fell into a gorge in northern India, police said Monday. Police officer Dinesh Pant said 28 others were injured in the accident late Sunday near Kaladungi, a town about 400 kilometers (250 miles) northeast of New Delhi.

The driver lost control of the vehicle after the brakes failed on a mountainous road in Uttarakhand state, Pant said. The driver was among those killed. The bride and the groom were traveling in another vehicle and were unhurt, he said.

India has the world's deadliest roads, with more than 110,000 people killed annually. Most crashes are blamed on reckless driving, poorly maintained roads and aging vehicles.

World

Suicide bomber strikes Russian bus, killing 6

MOSCOW (AP)—A female suicide bomber blew herself up on a city bus in southern Russia on Monday, killing six people and injuring about 30, officials said. The attack in Volgograd added to security fears ahead of the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

The suspected bomber was from the North Caucasus, a region in southern Russia where an Islamic insurgency has been simmering for more than a decade following two separatist wars in Chechnya. A local official said the suspected attacker was married to an Islamic militant.

Volgograd lies 650 kilometers (400 miles) to the northeast of the North Caucasus, while Sochi sits to the west along the Black Sea.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for Monday's suicide bombing, but it was the first outside the North Caucasus since Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov three months ago called for a resumption of attacks on civilians and urged militants to target the Sochi Games, which are to be held in February.

Russia in past years has seen a series of terror attacks on buses, airplanes and other forms of transportation, some of them carried out by suicide bombers. The last suicide attack on a bus was in 2008.

Twin bombings on the Moscow subway in March 2010 carried out by female suicide bombers killed 40 people and wounded more than 120. In January 2011, a male suicide bomber struck Moscow's Domodedovo Airport, killing 37 people and injuring more than 180.

Umarov, who had claimed responsibility for the 2010 and 2011 bombings, ordered a halt to attacks on civilian targets because of the mass street protests against President Vladimir Putin in the winter of 2011-12. He reversed that order in July.

The suspected bomber was from Dagestan, one of the predominantly Muslim republics in the North Caucasus, said Vladimir Markin, the spokesman for the Investigative Committee, Russia's main investigative agency.

In a statement, he identified the suspect as 30-year-old Naida Asiyalova. Russian state television showed pictures of Asiyalova's passport.

In Dagestan, the center of the insurgency, bombings and shootings occur almost daily. Most of them target law enforcement officers, not civilians. The Tsarnaev brothers, accused of carrying out the Boston Marathon bombings, have roots in Dagestan and Chechnya.

Rasul Temirbekov, a spokesman for the Investigative Committee's branch in Dagestan, said the suspected bomber was married to an ethnic Russian, Dmitry Sokolov, whom she had met while both were university students in Moscow.

She encouraged him to become a rebel, and he quickly gained a reputation as an expert in explosives, Temirbekov said. Sokolov, whose nom de guerre is Abdul Jabbar, has been on the run.

Temirbekov said that the suspected suicide bomber had a fatal bone illness.

Video broadcast on state Rossiya television showed that Monday's explosion occurred as the bus was moving in the far right lane of a divided six-lane road. The video, taken from a vehicle traveling behind the bus, showed a burst of flame and gray smoke. Fragments of what appeared to be window frames and other parts of the bus were left scattered across the road.

Christians mourn Cairo shooting that killed 4

AP

A relative of 8-year-old Mariam Ashraf Meseeha who was killed late Sunday, mourns over her coffin during her funeral with others in Warraq's Virgin Mary church in Cairo, Egypt, Monday, Oct. 21, 2013.

CAIRO (AP)—The elderly, silver-haired Christian could hardly speak Monday, sitting stunned in a church where the evening before, suspected Islamic militants on a motorcycle sprayed his family's wedding party with automatic weapons fire, killing his son, his wife's sister and two granddaughters aged 8 and 12.

"It's God's will. They are always beating us down. Every other day now, they do this," the 75-year-old Fahmy Azer Abboud said as he waited for their funeral to start.

He spoke haltingly of his dead granddaughters, both named Mariam.

"They were pure angels. They had the world's kindness inside them. They helped me and shared with me everything they had," Abboud said.

The girls were waiting to enter the Church of the Virgin Mary in Cairo's Warraq district for the wedding of another of Abboud's granddaughters when the gunmen struck about 9 p.m. Sunday. The wounded included seven relatives, with his other son, Nabil, among them, he said.

The shooting deepened panic among Egypt's minority Coptic Christians, already the target of centuries of discrimination by the Muslim majority. It also raised fears that an insurgency by Islamic extremists in the strategic Sinai Peninsula and an increase in attacks in rural areas may be shifting to the capital, a city of 18 million people already beset by crime and poverty.

The violence by Islamic radicals has risen since the military deposed President Mohammed Morsi in July and cracked down on his Muslim Brotherhood and its allies. The attacks have targeted mainly security forces and Christians, whom the Islamists blame because of their strong support of Morsi's ouster. In Sinai, suspected jihadist fighters have stepped up violence against soldiers and police since the coup.

Sunday's shooting also recalled an Islamic militant insurgency in the 1980s and 1990s, when extremists waged a campaign against police, Christians and foreign tourists, trying to topple the government of now-ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak. Many fear a revival of that wave of violence.

High-profile attacks blamed on militants have already begun to creep into Cairo. In September, the interior minister, who heads the police, survived an assassination attempt by a suicide car bombing. Earlier this month, militants fired rocket-propelled grenades on the nation's largest satellite ground station, also in the capital.

Witnesses said a car blocked traffic outside the Coptic church minutes before the shooting, allowing the gunmen on the motorcycle the space they needed and giving them a relatively easy getaway.

The funeral of the four victims was attended by several thousand Christians who spelled into the street. Their grief was mixed with anger and disbelief.

"With our blood and souls, we will redeem the cross," they chanted as the four coffins were about to be brought into the church.

Greek police release photos of Roma abduction suspects

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek police on Monday released photographs of a couple charged with abducting a girl and judicial authorities put the pair in pre-trial custody, as an international search for the child's biological parents intensified. Authorities also scrambled to uncover fraudulent birth declarations related to possible welfare benefit scams involving the couple and others.

Salis

Dimopoulou

Maria

Investigators trying to establish how the girl known only as "Maria" came to be with the detained Gypsy couple are considering a range of potential scenarios, from child trafficking to even simple charity.

The suspects were also identified as 39-year-old Christos Salis and a 40-year-old woman who used the names Eleftheria Dimopoulou and Selini Sali. They were arrested last week, after police found the girl when they raided a Gypsy, or Roma, encampment near the central Greek town of Farsala. Her DNA shows she is not the couple's child.

Authorities allege Dimopoulou claimed to have given birth to six children in less than 10 months, and 10 of the 14 children the couple had registered as their own are unaccounted for. It is not clear whether the 10 children are real or were made up to cheat the Greek welfare system.

Police say the two suspects received about 2,500 euros ($3,420) a month in subsidies from three different cities. In Athens, municipal authorities suspended the director of the capital's records office as well as two senior officials pending the conclusion of a fraud investigation.

The couple has given conflicting accounts of how they came to have the girl, according to police. A defense lawyer has said they were motivated by charity, after being approached by an intermediary for a destitute foreign mother who reportedly could not afford to raise the child.

Photographs released of "Maria" have triggered a global outpouring of sympathy and possible tips to police but no breakthrough yet in identifying her or her parents.

The "Smile of the Child" charity, which is caring for the girl, said it had received more than 8,000 calls and thousands of emails—some with details and photographs of missing children—from people in the United States, Scandinavia, other parts of Europe, Australia and South Africa.

"The case has touched a chord with lots of people from many countries," Panayiotis Pardalis, a spokesman for the charity, told The Associated Press. "This case is now giving hope to parents of missing children."

He said the charity had forwarded all tips to the police but that most people were just conveying their concern.

A dental examination showed the child is older than previously thought, 5 or 6 years old instead of four, the charity said.

"We had been seeking details for a girl aged 4. So the fact that she is older changes the nature of the search," charity director Costas Yannopoulos said. "One thing that has impressed us is that the little girl is not asking for anyone ... She is relaying the kindness she has been shown for the last three days to her dolls."

Focus

MODERN-DAY SLAVERY persists the world over, report says

By MARK MAGNIER and ROBYN DIXON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW DELHI—When Savita Debnath was 14, two unknown men came to her impoverished village in eastern India, promising her a job cleaning houses for $40 a month in nearby Kolkata. When she got there, agents forced her onto a train to New Delhi and sold her.

The buyers were a family that abused her and forced her to work long days cooking, cleaning, caring for two young children and preparing for parties without pay or being allowed to contact her family.

"I worked from 6 a.m. until midnight or 1 a.m.," said Savita, now 15 and freed from her bondage. "When a dish burned, she slapped me many times. I'd cry for my mother, but the mistress ignored me."

A report released by Australia's Walk Free Foundation suggests that Savita's story is a common one, not just in India but worldwide. The 162-nation survey estimated that there are 29.8 million modern-day slaves, and that bondage in some form exists in most countries, including the United States, Canada, Japan and Western European nations.

Although other countries have a greater proportion of their population in bondage, India has by far the largest number, an estimated 13.9 million people. That is more than four times that of the No. 2 country, China, with 2.9 million. Pakistan ranked third, with 2.1 million.

Mauritania and Haiti had the highest percentage of the population in bondage, 4 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

Modern slavery, the report says, "takes many forms, and is known by many names. Whether it is called human trafficking, forced labor, slavery or slavery-like practices ... victims of modern slavery have their freedom denied, and are used and controlled and exploited by another person for profit, sex or the thrill of domination."

In India, much of the traffic in enslaved domestic workers is organized by dubious employment agencies that are virtually unregulated despite a court order requiring the government to set operating guidelines.

"The placement agencies get all the money, and the poor girl gets nothing," said Rishi Kant, a social activist with Shakti Vahini, the New Delhi-based civic group that rescued Savita. "The girls are abused—mentally, sexually, physically. Officials don't care, and sometimes even want maids for their own houses, (which is) partly why they're silent on this."

Nick Grono, Walk Free's chief executive, said by phone that modern-day slavery in India includes children forced into marriages, entire lower-caste communities forced to work in brick kilns or quarries, and people lured by money lenders to assume debts that can last for generations.

In the case of enslaved domestic workers, middle- and upper-class families often happily pay as little as $33 a month to disreputable agents for 24/7 help, rather than paying the minimum wage of $125 a month and following other labor laws. The agents often ensure that ties are cut between girls—as young as 10—and their families in rural villages. The girls' isolation is made worse because they often speak no Hindi, fear the police and are penniless, leaving them little way out of their plight.

"The family is duped, left thinking one day she'll come back with some money," Kant said. "And many employing the girls in Delhi are rich, powerful families, so authorities don't enforce the law."

There are signs of progress, said Shalini Grover, an analyst with New Delhi's Institute of Economic Growth, noting a increase in the number of part-time domestic workers who live outside their employers' homes, giving them greater economic leverage and control over their lives.

In terms of percentage of people in slavery, India is fourth on Walk Free's list. In Mauritania, which ranks first, one nongovernmental organization has estimated that as much as 20 percent of the population is enslaved, although Walk Free uses the more conservative figure of 4 percent. Slavery in Mauritania goes back generations and is deeply entrenched, although the country has banned the practice and signed international conventions against slavery and child labor.

"Indoctrination to ensure people in slavery accept their situation of ownership is a key feature of slavery in Mauritania," Walk Free's Global Slavery Index report says. "Without access to education or alternative means of subsistence, many believe that it is God's wish for them to be slaves."

At the other extreme, Iceland is estimated to have 100 slaves amid its population of 320,000. The United States ranks 134th, with an estimated 60,000 people in bondage.

The rankings are based on a compilation of government statistics, multilateral agency information, NGO studies and Walk Free's surveys. The organization provided drafts to all 162 countries six months ago, but for the most part, only developed countries responded, with largely positive or neutral responses. Walk Free hopes to continue refining the data.

Walk Free acknowledged the difficulties in compiling and refining data for the survey, its first, but said it hoped the index would widen the discussion about reducing modern-day slavery.

"Our data is the best out there, but it's a moving feast," Grono said. "You have to be an optimist in this industry, otherwise you'd slit your throat."

Magnier reported from New Delhi and Dixon from Johannesburg, South Africa. Tanvi Sharma in the Times' *New Delhi bureau contributed to this report.*

> *"Whether it is called human trafficking, forced labor, slavery or slavery-like practices...victims of modern slavery have their freedom denied, and are used and controlled and exploited by another person for profit, sex or the thrill of domination."*

Mauritania, Haiti top new global slavery index

LONDON (AP)—Mauritania, Haiti and Pakistan rank among the countries with the highest prevalence of modern slavery, according to a new global index released Thursday by an anti-slavery charity.

The "Global Slavery Index" report by the Walk Free Foundation ranked 162 countries by estimating the number of people in each nation affected by a range of practices including forced and bonded labor, human trafficking, forced marriages, and the use of children in the military.

Walk Free Foundation was founded last year by Australian mining magnate Andrew Forrest. Its index was endorsed by leaders including former U.S. Secretary Hillary Clinton, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates.

Clinton said in a statement that although the index wasn't perfect, it provided a starting point.

"I urge leaders around the world to view this index as a call to action, and to stay focused on the work of responding to this crime," she said.

Using reports from governments and non-profit organizations as well as statistical estimates, the charity said that Mauritania has the highest proportion of people in slavery, with many people inheriting slave status from their ancestors. About 140,000 to 160,000 people are enslaved in the west African nation, which has a population of just 3.8 million, the report said.

Haiti came second in the index, with about one in 10 children trapped in an exploitative system of child labor, the report said. Pakistan ranked third with more than 1.8 million in bonded labor, followed by India, where child labor and forced marriages are common.

In absolute terms, India, China, Pakistan and Nigeria have the highest numbers of people enslaved, the charity said. Together with five other countries, they account for three quarters of the total estimated number of people in modern slavery.

Campus Life

Palau Community College student leaders sworn in

The newly elected student officers of the Associated Students of Palau Community College were sworn in to their respective offices on Sept. 27, 2013.

Present to commemorate the officers was an audience of proud friends and families. PCC staff members, instructors, PCC board vice chair Masa-Aki N. Emesiochl, and PCC president Dr. Patrick U. Tellei also witnessed the swearing-in of the student officers.

Tellei welcomed everyone and recounted his own experiences as a PCC student leader, particularly about a plan that the student leaders had outlined to pave the road to the dormitories. Although it took years for the plan to materialize, it is an example of the students' participation in the decision making process of the school. He encouraged the new officers to be active in their roles and contribute to the betterment of the college. Tellei also challenged student leaders to participate in school activities, such as sport competitions and the Annual Thanksgiving Endowment Fundraiser.

Tellei administered the oaths of office to ASPCC. The officers were sworn to uphold the ASPCC constitution bylaws and to represent the student body to the best of their abilities. The oath of office for the student trustee was administered by Emesiochl. As member of the board, the student trustee is an official of the national government and sworn to uphold the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau.

ASPCC is responsible for the general welfare of the PCC student body. The organization is composed of four ASPCC officers and Student Senate members. The school year 2013 student elections were held on Sept. 18, 2013, with a total of 238 (198 freshmen and 40 sophomore) students of the 644 enrolled practicing their voting rights. ***(PCC)***

Student Trustee
Dizzette U. Dolmers

ASPCC President
Komelia I. Thomas

President-Elect
Benigno S. Sablan

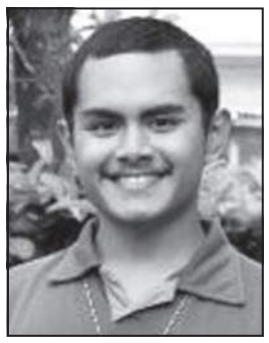
Secretary
Latricia B. Skiwo

Sophomore Rep.
Echeliou A. Filibert

Sophomore Rep.
Luigi R. Ueki

Treasurer
Ciara E. Haruo

Freshman Rep.
Ivy J. Patris



Freshman Rep.
Ewing Rudimch

STUDENT SENATE

Palau Rep.
Antoni Soalablai

Yap Rep.
Lisa T. Sulog

Chuuk Rep.
Abram Shirai

Pohnpei Rep.
Tommy L. Obed

Marshall Islands Rep.
Ronnie Thomas

AP

Students wait to go to art class at Indian Trails Elementary school in Independence, Mo.

Stephen Covey's '7 Habits' shakes up schools

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. (AP)—One year after Johnathan Kent kicked his principal and school "went all bad," the 8-year-old was recognized at a recent assembly as the "Star of the Month" for being polite and helping out his teachers.

The third-grader's explanation for the turnaround: "I'm not doing what I did last year."

But Emily Cross, the principal of Indian Trails Elementary on the outskirts of Kansas City, Mo., is giving some credit to a program the school began using last year that is built around the late self-help guru Stephen Covey's best-selling "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People." A 25th anniversary edition of the 1989 book will be released in November.

The nearly 1,500 mostly elementary schools using the program—called "The Leader in Me"—teach principles from the book, including "think win-win," "seek first to understand, then to be understood" and "synergize." Teachers, for example, might ask students how historical figures like George Washington might have used them.

And if a student gets into trouble, teachers and principals ask what habit could have helped him or her avoid the scrape.

When Johnathan's principal asked the boy what habit led to his turnaround, he quickly responded, "Do first things first." He said he didn't finish his work last year.

Students typically are assigned leadership roles that range from class greeter to fish-tank cleaner. They also keep a leadership notebook in which they chart growth in an academic area. The notebooks also track a personal goal, such as the time spent learning to tie their shoes. Cross said the tracking is a big motivator for Johnathan.

"He sees that when I'm in class putting first things first, my dot on my graph is going up, and he's proud," Cross said. "He's very confident now, and he wasn't last year."

The Leader in Me, which has started branching out into preschools and middle schools, is one of "literally dozens" of programs seeking to improve the school climate, said Paul Baumann, director of the National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement at the Denver-based Education Commission of the States, a nonpartisan group that researches education policy. He said most of the programs are run by nonprofits. The cost of the Leader in Me was "pretty high" in comparison, he said.

For a 400-student school, adopting the Leader in Me program would cost between $45,000 and $60,000 over the first three years.

The program's developer, FranklinCovey, acknowledges that the expense is one of the biggest challenges. Some schools are able to cover the cost using federal Title I money that's awarded to schools that serve large numbers of low-income students. And for schools that need help, foundations, community Chambers of Commerce or businesses might be asked to help cover the cost, said Meg Thompson, who oversees the program for Salt Lake City-based FranklinCovey.

Not everyone is sold though. Lakeview Elementary in Kirkland, Wash., a Seattle suburb, dropped the program this year after parents complained. Lake Elementary parent Paul Devries said he found the program "cult-like" and "objected to the group mentality." Some schools offer training sessions for parents.

"It's our responsibility as parents to teach values to our kids, not for kids to come home and teach Franklin-Covey's values to us," said Devries, 53, a fishery scientist and water resource engineer. "Kids should be able to be creative and think for themselves and not be automatons and repeat the seven habits."

Asked how many schools had dropped out, Franklin-Covey said that would be hard to calculate.

Before his death in July 2012, Covey disputed criticism that he simply repackaged his Mormon faith in the "Seven Habits."

Backers say the program exceeded expectations.

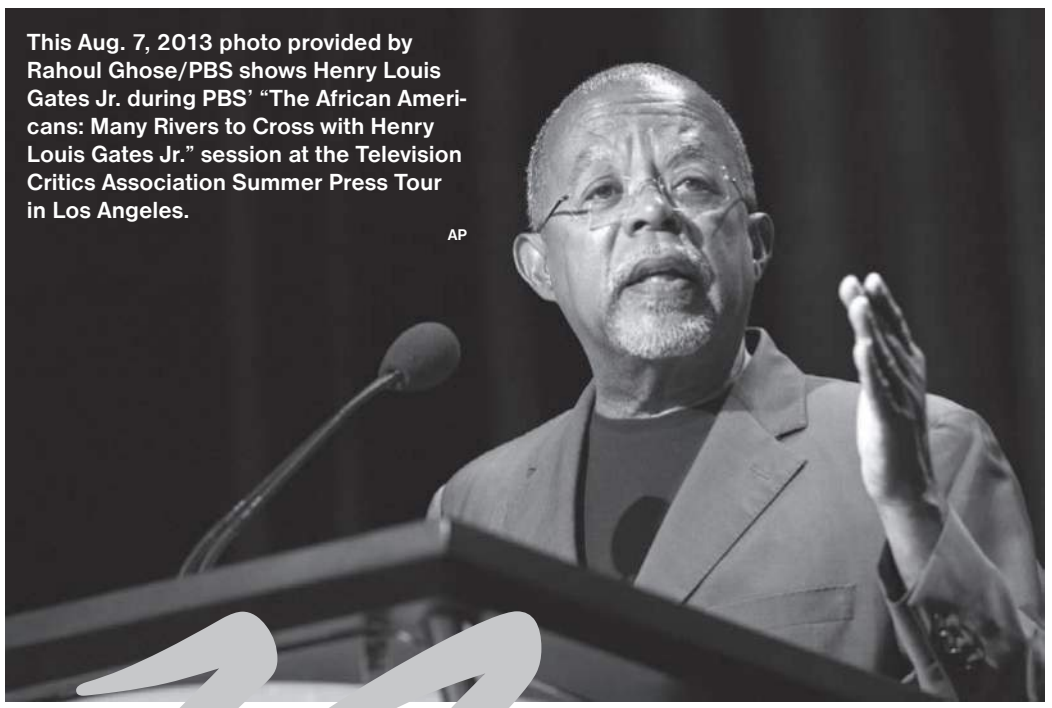
"It is easier for kids at 5, 6, 7 to learn the habits than it is for us adults," said Joel Katte, principal of Meadowthorpe Elementary in Raleigh, N.C., where student leadership assemblies feature students singing about and performing skits about the habits. "It's kind of a first language for them."

The program got its start in 1999 when Muriel Summers, principal of A.B. Combs Elementary in Raleigh, asked Covey whether he thought the habits could be taught to children. FranklinCovey provided free training for her staff.

"We started to see amazing results," Summers said. "We saw children really being recognized for what they do well, not what they didn't do well. And we started to love them through their challenges."

Life & Style

Charting 5 centuries of African American history



This Aug. 7, 2013 photo provided by Rahoul Ghose/PBS shows Henry Louis Gates Jr. during PBS' "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross with Henry Louis Gates Jr." session at the Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour in Los Angeles.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Slavery in the United States was once a roaring success whose wounds still afflict the country today.

So says Henry Louis Gates, Jr., who examines both its success and shame in "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross," his new PBS documentary series that traces 500 years of black history.

"Slavery is a perfect example of why we need limits on the more unfortunate aspects of human nature," he says. "Slavery was capitalism gone berserk."

The horrifically profitable practice of slavery and the brutal inhumanity of Jim Crow loom large in "The African Americans" (premiering Tuesday at 8 p.m. EDT; check local listings), which, through its six hours, performs a neat trick: Its reach extends far beyond American shores, venturing through the Caribbean region and all the way to Africa, while deftly folding this sprawl of black history into the larger American story that, too often, has kept the role of black America shunted to the margins.

Slavery—"the supreme hypocrisy"—was always an essential ingredient of the American experiment. White America always drew heavily on the labor, culture and traditions of blacks while denying them due credit in exchange, not to mention their human rights.

The father of our country was one of its largest slave owners, even as one of his slaves, Harry Washington, understandably fled to join a British regiment and fight against the patriots.

"Because of the profound disconnect between principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and the simultaneous practice of slavery, we've had historical amnesia about slavery," Gates was saying in a recent interview. "We still see the effects, and feel them."

Even the site for the nation's capital city—Washington, D.C.—was chosen to accommodate the mighty bloc of Southern slave owners.

And the series also notes that, among too many other cruel paradoxes, slaves cut the stone and laid the bricks for the U.S. Capitol.

"The African Americans" doesn't fall prey to white scapegoating. For instance, Africans practiced slavery long before white Europeans cashed in, and Gates journeys to Sierra Leone, where he visits with Africans whose forebears profited from it.

Gates—an author, Harvard scholar, social critic and filmmaker—is more interested in recognizing and discovering oft-neglected pieces of the American puzzle.

The series starts with what Gates deems a downright scoop. It turns out the very first African to come to North America was a free man accompanying Spanish explorers who arrived in Florida in 1513. This was more than a century before the first 20 African slaves were brought to the British colony of Jamestown by pirates who traded them for food.

Thus does his series roll the clock back 106 years to a largely unknown starting point in African-American history.

From there, it covers slavery, the Civil War, the Jim Crow era and the rise of civil rights. It concludes on a high note, exactly 500 years from where it began, with the second inauguration of Barack Obama, the nation's first black president.

Even so, Gates says he didn't want to sound a false note of triumph: "By nature, I'm an optimist, but we end the series with the message, `This is the best of times, the worst of times.'"

Worst? He points out many dismaying facts. A disproportionate number of black men are imprisoned today. A huge percentage of black children are born out of wedlock to single mothers.

Pew: Love is in the air and on the Web

NEW YORK (AP)—Online dating is shedding its stigma as a refuge for the desperate, but people who use sites such as Match.com and eHarmony are still in the minority.

Thirty-eight percent of Americans who are "single and looking" say they've used an online dating site or mobile dating app, according to a new study.

The report published Monday from the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project suggests that attitudes toward online dating "have progressed in a clearly positive direction." In fact, 59 percent of Internet users agree that online dating is a good way to meet people. That's up from 44 percent in 2005.

As Americans shop, socialize and entertain themselves online, a growing number are turning to the Internet to find dates. Some 11 percent of people who started a long-term relationship in the past decade say they met their partner online. Even so, only 10 percent of Americans say they've tried online dating.

Online dating is most popular among men and women ages 25 to 34. Nearly a quarter of them have used online dating sites, compared with just 10 percent of people in the 18 to 24 age group. For ages 35 to 44, it's 17 percent and then the numbers fall to the single digits. Three percent of those over 65 have dabbled in online dating.

Whites are slightly more likely to use dating sites than other ethnicities—11 percent compared with 7 percent for blacks and 5 percent of Hispanics, according to the survey. People without a high school diploma were the least likely to use the Internet to find a date, while those who have completed "some college" were the most likely.

While a relatively small fraction of people use online dating sites, forty-two percent of Americans say they know someone who has, up from 31 in 2005. Among those 65 or older, the number grew to 24 percent from 13 percent.

Once upon a time, couples who found each other online felt compelled to spin alternate "how we met" tales, but that's no longer the case. Perhaps it's the result of changing attitudes. In 2005, 29 percent of Internet users agreed that people on online dating sites were "desperate." In Pew's most recent study, that number fell to 21 percent.

But online dating isn't all chocolate hearts and red roses. More than half of online daters say they believe someone else "seriously misrepresented themselves" in an online dating profile. More than a quarter have felt uncomfortable or harassed by someone who contacted them.

UAE mosque shows Rihanna the door over photo shoot

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Overseers of Abu Dhabi's Grand Mosque say they asked pop star Rihanna to leave the compound after she posed for photographs considered to be at odds with the "sanctity" of the site.

Rihanna hasn't publicly responded to the actions by staff at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. Her show took place on Saturday in Abu Dhabi.

Photos posted on various websites show the singer posing on white marble, dressed fully in black, with her hair covered according to the mosque's guidelines.

The mosque statement, published Monday in local newspapers, said Rihanna was in an area normally off limits for visitors. It says the fashion-style photo session violated rules on the "status and sanctity of the mosque."

The mosque is a major tourist site in the UAE capital.

AP

In this photo posted to an Instagram account belonging to Rihanna, pop star Rihanna poses for a photo in front of Abu Dhabi's Grand Mosque in the United Arab Emirates.

In Humble Gratitude

We the children and families of

†PEDRO COGURE ARRIOLA

Lovingly known as "PETE"

would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to our relatives and friends who surrounded us with their love, prayers, kindness and support.

Your thoughtful gestures and kind words have consoled our hearts beyond our expectation in such difficult times. Your presence at the Prayer Service and Eucharistic Celebration was very much appreciated. With heartfelt appreciation, thank you to Rev. Pastor Ray Kinsella and Father Issac M. Ayuyu. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Assemblies of God families, and our families and friends who in one way or another supported us.

We will always remember you in our hearts and prayers

"May God Bless Us All"

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Maraming Salamat

Luz F. Arriola, Children and Families

Britney: Balancing 'crazy mom' home life with work

LONDON (AP)—Britney Spears may take on a sexy pop star persona in the video for her latest single "Work B---- ," but at home she says she feels like a "crazy mom."

Speaking in London, the 31-year old singer says these days she juggles the demands of an international singing career with taking care of her two sons, Sean, 8, and 7-year-old Jayden.

"Once you've done a shoot ... you have to come in and do homework and fix dinner twice and it's a lot of work," she told The Associated Press in an Oct. 15 interview. "But I think as women we just manage it, we make it work."

Spears says she worked hard with her fitness trainer to get into top shape for her new video, sticking to two or three small meals each day. The American singer admitted, however, that she struggled to stave off food cravings in the weeks leading up to the video shoot, saying: "I love to eat my popcorn at night!"

And the first thing she ate afterward?

"Just chocolate, chocolate, chocolate," she said.

"Work B----" is the lead single from Spears' 8th studio album "Britney Jean"—the name her family calls her—and she says it's her most personal album to date. Produced with will.i.am, Spears co-wrote every track, including a song about her split with Jason Trawick in January.

`"I think it will make girls not feel alone in this situation," she explained. "When they're alone in their room and they broke up with their boyfriend, they have a song they can go to and listen to, just makes them feel better about themselves."

Not content with just a new single and a new album, the singer is also preparing for a Las Vegas residency at the Planet Hollywood Resort and Casino. In a show titled "Britney: Piece of Me," Spears will perform 50 dates over two years.

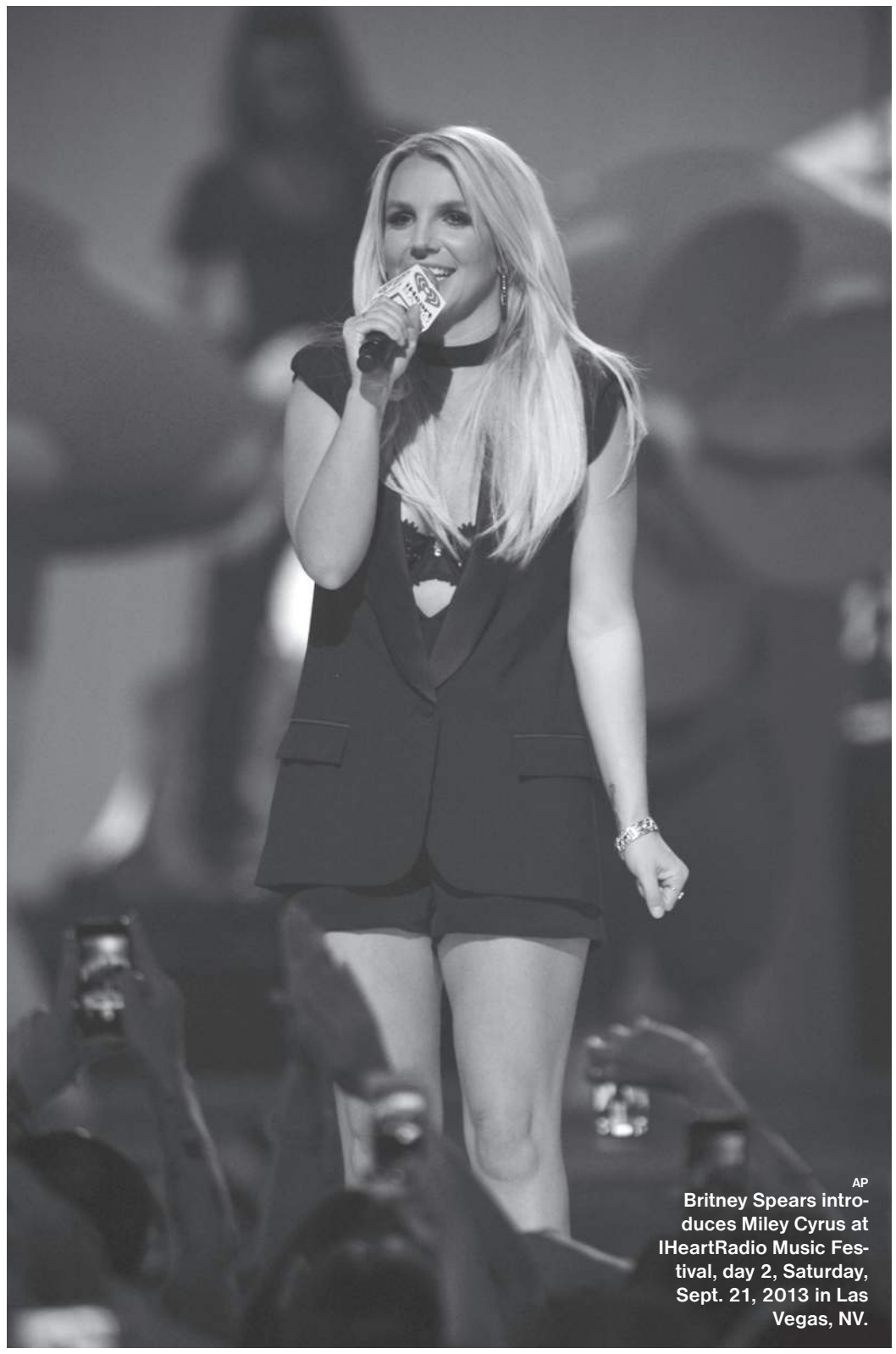
The Grammy-winner says she has a vocal coach to strengthen her voice for the show. She described the process as "grueling"—but says she can't wait for the experience.

"I know I'll be nervous, but I'm going to be excited, too. It's going to be cool," she said.

Spears feels it's a good time for women in pop music right now, citing the success of Rihanna, Lady Gaga, Madonna and Taylor Swift as her inspiration.

"There's so many strong, powerful women in pop music culture today," she said.

"Britney Jean" is out Dec. 3 and "Britney: Piece of Me" debuts in Las Vegas on Dec. 27.



AP
Britney Spears introduces Miley Cyrus at IHeartRadio Music Festival, day 2, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013 in Las Vegas, NV.

Ohio kidnapping survivors are working on book

NEW YORK (AP)—Two of the three women held captive for a decade in a Cleveland house are collaborating with a Pulitzer Prize-winning team of Washington Post reporters for a planned book about their ordeal.

In a statement issued Monday to The Associated Press, an attorney for Amanda Berry and Gina DeJesus said they will work with the Post's Mary Jordan, a Cleveland native, and her husband and fellow reporter, Kevin Sullivan. No meetings with publishers have been scheduled, although interest would likely be based on the popularity of another kidnapping survivor's memoir, Jaycee Dugard's "A Stolen Life."

Negotiations for the book will be handled by Washington-based attorney Robert Barnett, whose clients have included President Barack Obama and Amanda Knox.

"Many have told, and continue to tell, this story in ways that are both inaccurate and beyond the control of these young women," said James Wooley, the attorney for Berry and DeJesus. "Our clients have a strong desire for privacy, but it is a reality that confronts them every day. Gina, Amanda and their families have decided to take control and are now interested in telling the story of what happened to them."

Wooley said in his statement that he had known Jordan for years and contacted her about the project. Jordan told the AP during a recent interview that she was drawn to the "resilience" of Berry and DeJesus and was eager to help them tell an "amazing story of overcoming adversity." In 2003, she and Sullivan won a Pulitzer for their series about the Mexican criminal justice system.

Berry, DeJesus and Michelle Knight were all 20 or younger when they were kidnapped between 2002 and 2004 by Ariel Castro, a former school bus driver. They were rescued from Castro's house on May 6 when Berry broke through a screen door and called 911. Investigators said the women were bound, repeatedly raped and deprived of food and bathroom facilities.

Castro was sentenced Aug. 1 to life in prison plus 1,000 years after pleading guilty to 937 counts, including kidnapping and rape, in a deal to avoid the death penalty. He hanged himself in his cell in September.

Lady Gaga, ex-assistant settle NY lawsuit

AP
In this Sept. 1, 2013 file photo, Lady Gaga performs on stage at the Roundhouse in Camden, north London, as part of the iTunes Festival, the first of 30 nights of live free music in the capital.

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga and a former personal assistant who sued her won't face off in a trial next month after settling their differences out of court.

The settlement in a lawsuit brought by Jennifer O'Neill was revealed Monday in a court order dismissing the case. O'Neill had claimed the singer cheated her out of overtime wages when she worked for her for a few weeks in early 2009 and for 13 months beginning in February 2010.

A trial was scheduled to start Nov. 4. O'Neill had testified she was responsible for sometimes monitoring the singer's communications and for handling about 20 bags of luggage.

Court papers revealed that Lady Gaga and O'Neill were roommates and friends on the Lower East Side of Manhattan before 2008. Lawyers did not immediately comment.

Lawyers had notified U.S. District Judge Paul G. Gardephe on Friday that they were close to a settlement.

O'Neill had said that she was paid at a flat rate of about $50,000 annually when she was first hired and $75,000 annually the second time by the pop singer, who is estimated in a list published by Forbes magazine to have earned $80 million in the first six months of this year.

Gardephe had ordered the case to proceed to trial, saying O'Neill's "on-call" time potentially qualifies for overtime compensation. O'Neill's lawsuit said she was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

According to court papers, Lady Gaga, listed in the litigation under her birth name—Stefani Germanotta—and O'Neill frequently slept in the same bed because O'Neill never had her own hotel room while on tour and was required to address Lady Gaga's needs throughout the night.

In her deposition testimony, Lady Gaga had testified: "You don't get a schedule. You don't get a schedule that is like you punch in and you can play ... at your desk for four hours and then you punch out at the end of the day. This is when I need you, you're available."

Ten emerging writers receive $50,000 prizes

NEW YORK (AP)—Ten emerging authors, poets and playwrights have been picked as winners of $50,000 prizes for showing "exceptional talent and promise."

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner hosted a ceremony in Manhattan on Monday for the Whiting Writers' Awards.

Recipients include fiction writers Hanna Dela Cruz Abrams and Amanda Coplin, poets Ishion Hutchinson and Rowan Ricardo Phillips and playwright Virginia Grise. The other honorees are fiction writers Jennifer DuBois, C.E. Morgan and Stephanie Powell Watts, nonfiction writer Morgan Meis and nonfiction-fiction writer Clifford Thompson.

The Whiting prizes were established in 1985. Previous winners include Kushner, Jonathan Franzen and Mary Karr.

Taylor Swift invites special guests to CMA Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Taylor Swift has gathered an all-star band for her appearance on next month's Country Music Association Awards—and she's bit alone.

Swift will be joined by Alison Krauss, Vince Gill, Sam Bush, bassist Edgar Meyer and percussionist Eric Darken for a special version of her hit song "Red."

The 23-year-old singer is one of two top nominees with six nominations for the Nov. 6 awards. Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley will co-host the ABC broadcast live from Nashville, Tenn.

The CMA also announced in a news release Monday that Zac Brown will be joined by Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl on the broadcast and Jason Mraz will perform with Hunter Hayes.

All five nominees for top honor entertainer of the year—Swift, Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, Blake Shelton and George Strait—will perform on the show this year.

Cee Lo Green pleads not guilty in felony drug case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cee Lo Green pleaded not guilty on Monday to giving a woman ecstasy at a Los Angeles restaurant during a 2012 dinner, and prosecutors declined to file a rape count against the singer because of insufficient evidence.

Green, 38, whose real name is Thomas DeCarlo Callaway, appeared in court hours after prosecutors charged him with one felony count of furnishing a controlled substance. He could face four years in prison if convicted.

Green spoke only once during a brief arraignment hearing to acknowledge he understood the court's scheduling of his case.

He sat in a front row of the courtroom with his girlfriend while waiting for a bondsman to post his $30,000 bail. His case is due back in court on Nov. 20.

Green was pleased that the rape charge was rejected and will address the ecstasy count in court, his attorney Blair Berk wrote in a statement.

She said any sexual contact between her client and the woman was consensual.

AP

Singer Cee Lo Green, whose real name is Thomas DeCarlo Callaway, left, listens as attorney Blair Berk speaks during his arraignment at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in downtown Los Angeles on Monday, Oct. 21, 2013.

"Mr. Green encouraged a full and complete investigation of those claims and he was confident once conducted he would be cleared of having any wrongful intent," Berk wrote. She declined further comment.

Green is the Grammy-winning singer of the hit "Forget You" and performed as part of the duo Gnarls Barkley. He appears as a judge on the NBC competition show "The Voice." The network declined comment on the charge.

Kelly Clarkson weds music manager Blackstock

NEW YORK (AP)—Kelly Clarkson has married music manager Brandon Blackstock.

The pop singer tweeted a photo Monday in her wedding gown next to Blackstock. She writes, "I'm officially Mrs. Blackstock."

Clarkson says she tied the knot Sunday at Blackberry Farms in Walland, Tenn., outside Knoxville.

A representative for the singer didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment about the marriage.

Clarkson was the first winner of "American Idol" and has released five albums and sung multiple pop hits. She has won three Grammy Awards.

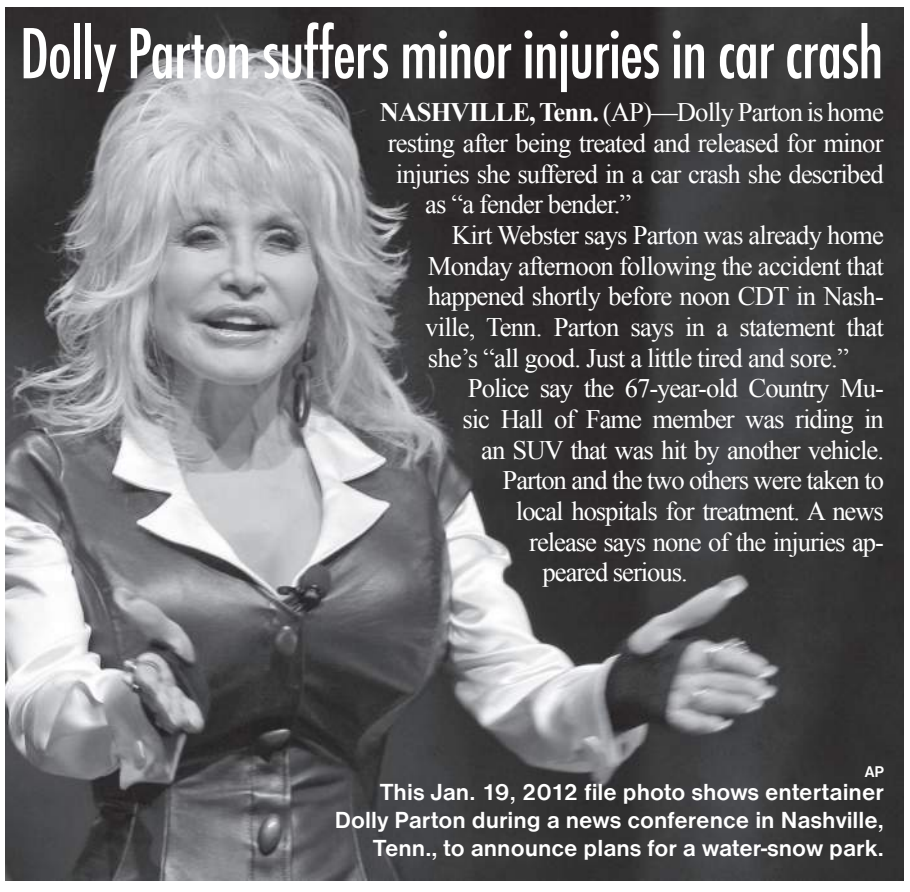
Blackstock manages country star Blake Shelton.

The couple has been dating for two years and got engaged last year.

In this Monday, Jan. 21, 2013 photo, singer Kelly Clarkson and Brandon Blackstock arrive on the West Front of the Capitol in Washington, for President Barack Obama's ceremonial swearing-in ceremony during the 57th Presidential Inauguration.

AP

Dolly Parton suffers minor injuries in car crash



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Dolly Parton is home resting after being treated and released for minor injuries she suffered in a car crash she described as "a fender bender."

Kirt Webster says Parton was already home Monday afternoon following the accident that happened shortly before noon CDT in Nashville, Tenn. Parton says in a statement that she's "all good. Just a little tired and sore."

Police say the 67-year-old Country Music Hall of Fame member was riding in an SUV that was hit by another vehicle. Parton and the two others were taken to local hospitals for treatment. A news release says none of the injuries appeared serious.

AP

This Jan. 19, 2012 file photo shows entertainer Dolly Parton during a news conference in Nashville, Tenn., to announce plans for a water-snow park.

Wayne Newton's yacht sinks at Lake Mead marina

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Authorities are investigating the sinking of a yacht owned by Las Vegas entertainer Wayne Newton at a Lake Mead marina.

National Park Service spokeswoman Christie Vanover said Monday that the 65-foot vessel sank stern-first in 45 feet of water while it was in a slip at the Temple Bar marina. That's on the Arizona side of the Colorado River reservoir, about 80 miles east of Las Vegas.

Vanover says no one was on the boat, and no injuries are reported.

Newton's sister-in-law, Tricia McCrone, confirms that the 1996 Skipperliner named Rendezvous (RAHN'-day-voo) belongs to Newton.

McCrone says Newton and his wife were vacationing out of the country when the boat sank Friday.

A photo provided by the Park Service shows the boat's bow sticking straight up from the water.

Cross-dressing husband worries his secret is out

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a happily married, heterosexual cross-dressing male. My wife understands and is supportive, and we have a wonderful life together.

During the past week I have been caught unexpectedly by three different neighbors, and we are now in a state of panic. We're not sure what to do. If you have any suggestions, we are all ears.

CAUGHT IN A PANIC

DEAR CAUGHT: Because you would prefer to keep your cross-dressing private and this is October, you could tell your neighbors your female attire is what you'll be wearing to a costume party. It's plausible.

However, when someone is "caught" engaging in a private activity once—that's an accident. When it happens three times in one week, I can't help but wonder whether on some level you would like to be more open about your lifestyle.

If you're not aware, a resource, The Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess International), offers support for heterosexual cross-dressers as well as their spouses, partners and families. It has been in my column before and is the oldest and largest support organization for cross-dressers and those who love them. It promotes cross-dressing with dignity and decency, and treats spouses on an equal basis with their cross-dressers. You can learn more about it at www.tri-ess.org.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My best friend's husband has been texting me. When he did it the first time, he had been drinking and my friend was asleep. Some of the things he said made me uncomfortable, but I also didn't like that he said his wife didn't know what he was doing. He stopped after I told him I was uncomfortable with it.

Now he has started up again, offering support because my mother passed away recently. I am honestly not sure whether he's trying to be a good friend or if he's looking for something more, and that scares me. I don't want to start trouble between my friend and her husband, especially because they seem so happy together. Any ideas on how to handle this?

UNSETTLED IN OHIO

DEAR UNSETTLED: Yes. Your friend's husband may be a genuinely sympathetic person—or he could be trying to take advantage of you while you're emotionally vulnerable. Listen to your gut. Tell him you appreciate his thoughtfulness, but you already have a support system in place and are receiving all of the emotional support you need.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 17-year-old cousin died in 2010, and I'm still hurting. I have tried to get over it, but we were really close. When I walk the halls at school, I hear people say bad things about him. When I bring his name up, no one has anything good to say about him. It seems like they don't really care that he was my cousin and I loved him.

How can I ask these people not to say bad things about him?

HURTING IN INDIANA

DEAR HURTING: Because people forget that the young man who died was your relative, feel free to remind them. All you need to say is: "You know, he was my cousin and we were close. I still miss him, and I wish you wouldn't say things like that about him when I'm around."

Losing a relative at any age is hard, but when the person is young, it can be even harder. Because you are still hurting and it has been three years, consider talking about this with a school counselor or joining a grief support group. Your clergyperson can help you locate one.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

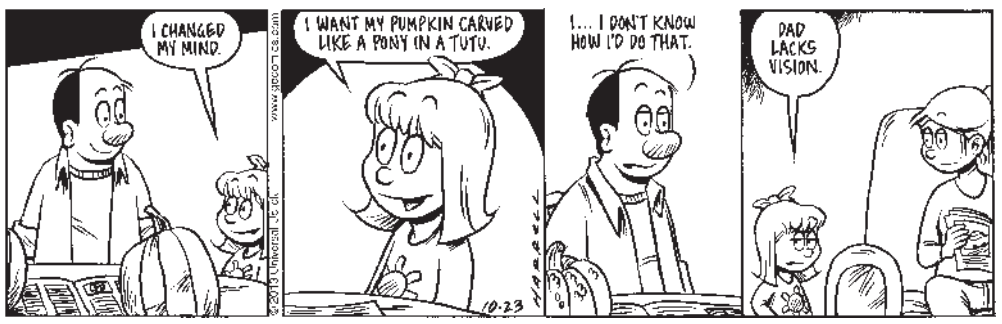
EVERYBODY SEEKS HAPPINESS! NOT ME, THOUGH! THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND THE REST OF THE WORLD!
HAPPINESS ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME! I DEMAND EUPHORIA!
THE PROBLEM WITH YOU, HOBBES, IS YOU'RE ALWAYS AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.
I'VE FOUND THAT SAVES MANY A FRIENDSHIP.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

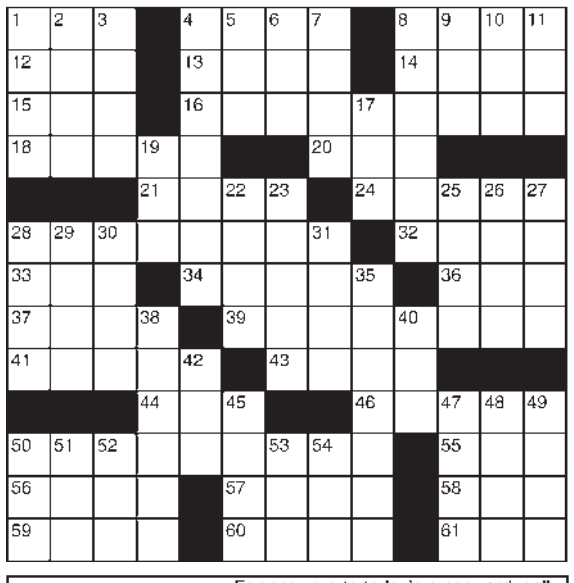
ACROSS
1 Existed
4 "Star —"
8 Upper-case
12 Eggs
13 Drunkard
14 Lotion additive
15 Stir-fry vessel
16 Unwilling to budge
18 Singer Taylor
20 Autumn mo.
21 Not so much
24 Thine
28 Unwilling to budge
32 Location
33 Egg-yung link
34 Mazda model
36 Greek cross
37 Crease
39 Unwilling to budge
41 Daub
43 Paddock papa
44 Young seal
46 Great pain
50 Unwilling to budge
55 Shell game item
56 Portent
57 Micro-wave
58 Blunder
59 Duel tool
60 "It just — to show you"
61 Dress in

DOWN
1 Over-whelms
2 Acknowl-edge
3 Munro pseudo-nym
4 Like the Obama presi-dency
5 Umbrella part
6 Type measures
7 Japanese zither
8 Dantean divisions
9 Carte lead-in
10 Cauldron
11 Witness
17 Un-friendly
19 Winter ailment
22 Je ne — pas
23 Sports page data
25 Busy with
26 Bellow
27 Astonish
28 Kills, gangland-style
29 Time of pros-perity
30 Clinton oppo-nent
31 Needle case
35 Scrapes
38 Scooby's red-headed friend
40 Implore
42 Regret
45 Throe
47 News-paper pg.
48 Infamous Roman
49 Old salt's story
50 "Ulalume" writer
51 Rascal
52 "Gosh!"
53 Pair
54 — out a living

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	A	F	T	■	H	A	S	H	■	T	A	B
I	D	E	A	■	A	L	O	E	■	A	C	E
M	O	N	T	Y	H	A	L	L	■	I	R	F
■	■	■	T	E	N	S	■	L	A	T	E	R
J	A	B	O	T	■	■	R	I	C	H	■	■
O	R	E	O	■	S	M	O	O	T	H	I	E
S	E	N	■	S	H	O	W	N	■	I	D	A
H	A	N	D	O	U	T	S	■	A	L	L	S
■	■	Y	U	A	N	■	■	M	U	L	E	Y
A	S	H	E	N	■	W	H	I	T	■	■	■
S	K	I	■	D	A	R	Y	L	H	A	L	L
E	E	L	■	S	L	I	P	■	O	B	O	E
A	W	L	■	O	I	I	O	■	R	E	A	D

Yesterday's answer 10-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Reynolds, 37; Nancy Grace, 54; Weird Al Yankovic, 54; Dwight Yoakam, 57.

Happy Birthday: Flexibility will help you change your direction to better serve your needs. Use your discipline and insight to guide you into unfamiliar territory. Think matters through and calculate what you want and how you are going to achieve your desires. Travel, picking up knowledge and being receptive to that which is unfamiliar will help you excel. Your numbers are 2, 13, 18, 20, 29, 34, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make a decision and stick to it. Staying focused and being consistent will help you pick and choose with greater clarity. Your intuition regarding partnerships and secret matters will be precise. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Playful interaction will attract favorable attention from the people you want to collaborate with professionally, financially and personally. Explore new interests, get involved in physical activities that are challenging, and improve your overall look and attitude. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep your life simple, truthful and free from emotional complications. Honesty will play a major role in your relationship personally and professionally. A problem with someone you live or work with is apparent. Love is plentiful but will also lead to trouble. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Indulge in entertaining pastimes and enjoying the company of people who are quite different than you. The more you share, the more you will discover. Travel or taking part in a community or cultural event will bring rewards. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your generosity will impress new acquaintances but won't have the same affect on those who know you well. A change of plans that ensures you keep loved ones happy should be your goal. You cannot buy love; you must earn it. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Talk to anyone and everyone and share your ideas. Don't let emotional matters interfere with your productivity. It's important to put what pays the bills first and foremost. A change of heart is apparent. Distance yourself from drama. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get involved with people from different backgrounds. Love and romance are highlighted and will lead you in a new direction. Don't pay for others or relinquish your cash to someone wanting to handle it for you. Stay in control and have fun. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a break, try something new or consider a lifestyle change that will lead to better health and personal rewards. Don't spend money on something that sounds too good to be true. Avoid being hustled by a smooth operator. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stick to what you know and avoid dealing with government agencies and financial or medical institutions if possible. Emotions will escalate and a personal situation will come to a head. Take time out to focus on personal improvements and a new direction. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can call the shots, but before you decide to make alterations to your home or status, consider whom you will affect and the consequences that will unfold. Baby steps are your best bet. Stability will create a solid opportunity. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Collaborate with people you find inspiring and motivational. Take pride in how you look and what you are doing to stay fit. Confidence will help carry you through any difficulty you encounter. An innovative idea will lead to a profitable endeavor. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You can talk anyone into anything if you use your imagination to promote what you are contemplating. Your intuition will help you pick and choose the right people to join forces with in order to excel. Safeguard your health. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are engaging, questioning and adventurous. You are opportunistic and productive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5	9	1				
1			3	6	5			
8		6				1		
6	4		2	8			3	
	9	8		5		2		4
5	1		4	7			6	
9		3				4		
7			1	3	6			
		1	8	9				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	4	6	9	7	3	2	8
7	2	3	4	1	8	6	5	9
8	9	6	2	3	5	1	4	7
4	3	7	1	5	9	8	6	2
2	6	5	7	8	4	9	1	3
1	8	9	3	6	2	5	7	4
9	4	1	5	7	3	2	8	6
3	5	2	8	4	6	7	9	1
6	7	8	9	2	1	4	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

VINE (MOBILE VIDEO APP) **Solution: 7 letters**

S	E	T	A	D	P	U	Y	T	C	E	Ⓣ	O	R	P
D	P	R	O	F	I	L	E	S	S	S	Ⓢ	T	A	P
S	D	E	E	F	I	R	E	X	P	L	Ⓞ	R	E	L
E	V	A	S	M	A	S	G	O	D	A	Ⓟ	O	O	A
T	E	M	A	R	F	E	R	A	E	P	P	C	C	B
A	E	F	E	C	O	T	O	N	G	L	A	U	E	E
E	R	M	T	I	S	L	I	N	E	T	S	A	U	L
R	A	S	I	S	P	L	I	C	I	E	U	R	N	A
C	H	G	V	U	E	K	A	O	R	T	B	D	L	Y
E	S	N	N	M	R	P	N	N	Y	A	Y	L	H	R
R	V	I	I	O	T	E	A	T	N	U	O	C	C	A
U	I	T	W	U	E	M	B	E	D	W	J	A	R	R
T	D	T	R	R	E	C	O	R	D	S	N	T	A	B
A	E	E	C	E	L	L	P	H	O	N	E	S	E	I
N	O	S	U	C	O	F	A	S	H	I	O	N	S	L

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Yesterday's Answer: Machines

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, volumes 27 and 31** call 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universalclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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- Fee simple ownership available
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Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
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(1) Waitress
Salary $5.55 p/h. High School graduate. Minimum 2 years experience. Knowledge in Chinese and Japanese languages a plus.
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If interested, bring resume and police clearance to Saipan International School. No telephone calls please.

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Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, October 31, 2013.

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Preference will be provided to applicants with knowledge and skills in handling petroleum products as well as general maintenance and repair.

Candidates must be physically able to perform the following functions in the performance of their assigned duties: frequent and repetitive walking, prolonged standing, sitting, bending, stooping, general lifting, moving or pulling of moderate loads (<40 pounds) and climbing stairs.

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This position will be based at the Saipan Aviation Depot on Airport Road. Remuneration will be commensurate with the successful applicant's relevant skills and experience.

If you believe you have the qualities required for this position, please submit your resume on or before Friday, November 1, 2013.
No phone calls please.

Attention to:
Eden Mercado, Human Resources
642 East Marine Corps Drive, Hagatna, Guam 96910
(Fax) 671-648-3786
Email: eden.mercado@exxonmobil.com

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Mobil
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WHATZIT Solution: Working behind the scenes

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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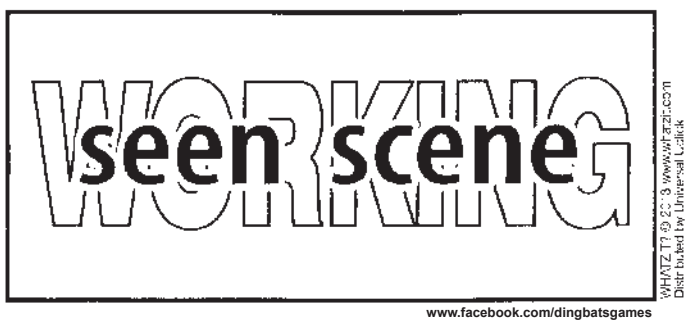
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in classified section

Giants get first win, beat sloppy Vikings

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—With six losses on their resume, the New York Giants could have been wondering if they would ever win a game this season.

Instead, they searched within to see what they are made of.

"The players and coaches have great pride in what we're doing," Eli Manning said Monday night after—at last—the team's first victory, 23-7 over the Minnesota Vikings. "We just had to keep going, get rid of some of the mistakes, and play the way we need to play."

They were efficient, if not overwhelming, which is all they needed to be against the mistake-prone Vikings (1-5).

The Giants began the season as the team turning over the ball (minus-16 difference) while showing little penchant for playing defense. But against the Vikings, they had three takeaways to one lost fumble.

Adrian Peterson, the league's MVP last season and a 2,000-yard rusher, was held to 28 yards five days after his 2-year-old son was buried in South Dakota. The man accused in the death was indicted on second-degree murder and manslaughter charges, prosecutors said Monday.

"It was tough sledding. We couldn't get anything established up front," Peterson said.

"I was focused on preparing for the game, unfortunately it didn't work out the way we wanted to. It was tough. The defense made it hard."

Peterson was not helped by a rusty Josh Freeman, making his debut as Vikings quarterback after being signed as a free agent when Tampa Bay cut the 2009 first-round draft pick. Freeman frequently missed open receivers, and several of his throws sailed yards beyond his targets.

New York Giants tight end Bear Pascoe (86) leaps over Minnesota Vikings' Jamarca Sanford (33) during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Oct. 21, 2013 in East Rutherford, N.J.

Coach Leslie Frazier said he considered taking out Freeman, but that the score was close enough for him to stick with his new QB.

Josh Brown kicked three field goals and Rueben Randle caught a 24-yard TD pass for New York (1-6).

"For us, we can't look too much past a win and a step in the right direction," defensive tackle Cullen Jenkins said. "We can't look beyond the next step."

Marcus Sherels provided Minnesota's points with an 86-yard punt return, but his fumble without being hit during a runback midway in the third quarter set up New York at the Vikings 3.

Peyton Hillis, signed last Wednesday with the Giants in dire need of running backs, surged in from the 1 for a 17-7 lead—New York's biggest in 2013.

The lead grew on Brown's 23-yard field goal to finish off a 16-play, 75-yard drive, and to 23-7 on his 36-yarder. Another Vikings mistake handed those points to the Giants: Rookie Sharrif Floyd, a defensive tackle of all things, fumbled at Minnesota's 18 while returning a short kickoff.

"We needed to get one on the board," defensive end Justin Tuck said. "I told (general manager) Jerry Reese that I think we have a shovel to start digging our way out of this hole. Hopefully, tonight is something we can build off. It's still a long way to climb out of this hole. But this was something that we could get the ball rolling."

The Giants controlled the clock and the ball for most of the opening quarter and led 3-0 when Sherels broke his spectacular punt return - the third against the Giants this season. He sped down the left sideline virtually untouched, then twice faked out punter Steve Weatherford. By the time Weatherford reached Sherels, it was at the goal line - where Weatherford brought him down with a horse-collar tackle.

Minnesota had a total of 8 yards on punt runbacks heading into Monday night. But Sherels set a team mark with 119.

Before Sherels' sprint, New York had gone 17 plays and used up the first 9:36, but bogged down at the 16 and Brown made a 35-yard field goal.

And one play after Minnesota hurt itself on rookie Xavier Rhodes' 23-yard pass interference penalty, Manning threw a laser to a leaping Randle in the left corner of the end zone for a 10-7 lead.

It was the first time New York led at halftime all season. The defense held Peterson to 9 yards rushing on eight carries, and he didn't do much more in the second half.

Manning, who led the league with 15 interceptions, didn't throw one for the first time all season. And while Freeman was picked only one time, by Antrel Rolle, he looked like someone who hadn't played in more than a month.

"A lot of the plays were just a hair off," Freeman said.

Freeman finished 20 of 53 for 190 yards. Manning was 23 for 39 for 200 yards.

Bradford, Wayne out for the season

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Sam Bradford was running out of bounds when a shove sent him tumbling to the ground.

Reggie Wayne was wide open when he turned to catch a low throw and crumbled to the turf.

Two seemingly harmless plays turned out to be quite costly. Bradford and Wayne each tore an anterior cruciate ligament in their knees and will miss the rest of the season.

Bradford's injury is a devastating blow to the St. Louis Rams, who will turn to backup quarterback Kellen Clemens.

Wayne's injury seriously dampened the Indianapolis Colts' spirit after a big win over Peyton Manning.

"I have great respect for what he does on the field, but just as genuine concern for him as a person," Clemens said of Bradford, who was hurt when he was pushed by Carolina's Mike Mitchell late in the fourth quarter of a loss to the Panthers.

Bradford tore his left ACL, which coach Jeff Fisher said was already in a brace. The former No. 1 overall pick had 14 touchdown passes and just four interceptions in his fourth season.

Wayne tore his right ACL in the fourth quarter of a victory over Denver. The soon-to-be 35-year-old wide receiver had played in 189 consecutive games. Wayne led his team with 38 catches and 503 yards this season. In 13 seasons, all with the Colts, he has 1,006 receptions, 13,506 yards and 80 TD catches.

"Looking back at it again today, there was really no one within 30 yards of him," quarterback Andrew Luck said. "He probably would have scored if I actually give him a decent ball. I feel somewhat responsible for the whole thing. I think I feel sick to my stomach about it a little bit."

The Chicago Bears also suffered big losses Sunday. Quarterback Jay Cutler will miss at least the next four weeks after tearing a muscle in his groin during a 45-41 loss to Washington. Pro Bowl linebacker Lance Briggs will be out for around six weeks after sustaining a small fracture in his left shoulder.

Veteran Josh McNown will replace Cutler. Pro Bowl cornerback Charles Tillman also left the game with a knee injury for the Bears.

In other injury news:

Houston Texans Pro Bowl linebacker Brian Cushing is out for the season with a left knee injury that will require surgery. Cushing, who tore his left ACL last season, was injured in the third quarter of a loss at Kansas City during a low block by running back Jamaal Charles.

The Green Bay Packers lost tight end Jermichael Finley to a significant neck injury in their win over the Browns. Finley needs more tests to determine the severity.

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles sustained a concussion in a loss to Dallas. Meanwhile, Michael Vick is still recovering from a hamstring injury that forced him to miss the past 2 1/2 games.

Washington Redskins strong safety Reed Doughty suffered a concussion when the Bears attempted an onside kick in the fourth quarter.

Atlanta Falcons running back Steven Jackson, who has missed the past four games with a hamstring injury, is expected to practice on Wednesday.

Kansas Chiefs lone remaining unbeaten after Broncos loss

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—It's hard to find anybody in the Kansas City Chiefs locker room willing to think back to last season. Those memories have been purged for weeks, if not months.

Kendrick Lewis remembers, though. The starting free safety remembers vividly what it was like to win just two games and finish with the worst record in franchise history. He still recalls what it was like to show up to Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday and see row after row of empty seats.

All of which makes their 7-0 start this season feel that much sweeter.

"There's a big difference," Lewis said after a 17-16 win over Houston on Sunday that, along with the Broncos' loss to the Colts, left Kansas City as the lone unbeaten team in the NFL.

"We're more of a family now," Lewis explained. "Every time we break it down, we break it down on family. We're more of a brotherhood. We're more together, pulling for one common goal."

Lewis went on to hazard the words "Super Bowl," making him not only one of the few players to recall last season but one of the few to look beyond the next team on the schedule.

There have been just 31 previous teams in the Super Bowl era to win their first seven games, and all of them made the playoffs. Fifteen of those teams made it to the final game of the season, and nine of them raised the Lombardi Trophy. One of those teams to start 7-0 was the 2003 version of the Chiefs, who won their first nine games - the only team in franchise history to get off to a better start than this crew.

That team wound up getting ousted by the Colts in their first playoff game.

Another team to start 7-0 was the 2004 bunch that Chiefs coach Andy Reid led in Philadelphia, which wound up losing its next game. But that team fared better when the postseason rolled around, making it to the Super Bowl and losing a 24-21 heartbreaker to the Patriots.

Reid refused to make any comparisons to the Chiefs of today with his Eagles of yesteryear, but the way he deftly sidestepped the question on Monday may indicate one similarity.

Both teams have focused solely on the present.

"If you just get into this thing and you hold things you can control, and that's practicing right, go through the different steps, and you hold true to that, you don't worry about what other people say," Reid said. "You prepare yourself for your opponent, you get yourself right, and if you stay right with that, all that other stuff doesn't really matter."

Still, there are lots of things swirling around this team that are worthy of asterisks.

- The Chiefs are the first team in NFL history to start 7-0 after having the worst record the previous season. The 1956 Lions won their first six games.
- Alex Smith joined Dieter Brock of the 1985 Rams as the only quarterbacks to win their first seven games with a new team since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970.
- The Chiefs have 35 sacks, and are on pace to break the NFL's single-season record of 72 set by the 1984 Bears. Kansas City has not allowed more than 17 points in a game this season.
- Running back Jamaal Charles has at least 100 yards from scrimmage and a touchdown in every game this season. O.J. Simpson in 1975 is the only other player to accomplish that feat.

Jim Leyland steps down as Tigers manager

Detroit Tigers baseball manager Jim Leyland announces he is stepping down as manager during a news conference at Comerica Park in Detroit, Monday, Oct. 21, 2013.

DETROIT (AP)—A picture of Jim Leyland's face stared out from the video board at an empty Comerica Park, next to that familiar Olde English "D" and a message that said simply: "Thank You Jim."

After eight seasons managing the Tigers, including three division titles and two American League pennants, Leyland stepped down Monday. His voice cracking at times, his hands wiping away tears at others, he announced his departure two days after Detroit was eliminated by Boston in the AL championship series.

"It's been a thrill," the 68-year-old Leyland said during a news conference at the ballpark. "I came here to change talent to team, and I think with the help of this entire organization, I think we've done that. We've won quite a bit. I'm very grateful to have been a small part of that."

Leyland made his managerial debut with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1986, and from Barry Bonds to Miguel Cabrera, he's managed some of the sport's biggest stars and been involved in some of baseball's most memorable games over the past quarter-century.

In 1992, his Pirates lost Game 7 of the NLCS when Atlanta rallied in the bottom of the ninth inning. Five years later, Leyland won his only World Series title as manager when his Florida Marlins beat Cleveland in an 11-inning thriller in Game 7.

He's experienced some of the highest highs the game has to offer, but also endured difficult rebuilding periods in both Pittsburgh and Florida.

After one season with the Colorado Rockies, Leyland didn't manage at all from 2000-05 before Detroit hired him. Leyland led the Tigers to the World Series immediately after taking over in 2006, losing to St. Louis in five games. The Tigers went to the World Series again in 2012 but were swept by San Francisco.

Leyland worked under one-year contracts the last couple of years, saying he was content to wait until after the season to address his status. He was reflective late this season, mentioning to reporters that he had already managed the Tigers longer than he had expected they would keep him, but he also said in September that he still loved the atmosphere, the competition and his team.

In fact, he'd actually told general manager Dave Dombrowski in early September that he didn't want to return as manager. He expects to remain with the organization in some capacity after going 700-597 as Tigers manager.

"I'm not totally retiring today, I'm just not going to be in the dugout anymore," Leyland said. "I hope and pray that you give the next manager the same respect and the same chance that you gave me."

Leyland says his health is fine, but it's time to stop managing. He said he started weighing his decision around June.

"I started thinking this was getting a little rough. I thought that the fuel was getting a little low," Leyland said. "I knew that I'd get through it because I knew we'd be playing for something."

The Tigers figure to contend again next year, which may lead Dombrowski to look for a proven commodity who can come in and manage. Kirk Gibson, who led Detroit to the 1984 World Series title as a player, is now managing in Arizona, but Diamondbacks president Derrick Hall tried to quash any speculation that Gibson would return to the Tigers.

"We would not grant permission (to the Tigers to talk to Gibson) if asked because we want him here, and he told me this morning he has no interest in leaving," Hall said.

Detroit's players found out about Leyland's departure after Saturday night's game in Boston, where the Red Sox won Game 6 to take the series.

"You've got your head down, you lost and the season's over, and then Jim dropped that bomb on us," outfielder Torii Hunter said. "I just had a feeling that it could have been his last year. All year, he was kind of emotional, and I just felt it."

Leyland said there was no announcement Saturday because he wanted the focus to be on the victorious Red Sox. However, he was honest about how much this defeat hurt.

"With all due respect to the Boston Red Sox - who earned it, they won it, they deserve to be where they are - I truly believe the Detroit Tigers should be playing here tomorrow," Leyland said. "This is one that's going to stick with me, this is one that really hurts, because I really felt like we let it get away."

When Leyland arrived at the Tigers' spring training camp this year, it marked 50 seasons since he first showed up there as an 18-year-old prospect. His playing career never amounted to much, but his accomplishments as a manager over more than two decades have been impressive.

He is 1,769-1,728 overall during stints with the Tigers, Pirates, Marlins and Rockies.

A-Rod's lawyers blocked by MLB at news conference

NEW YORK (AP)—Blocked from holding a news conference Monday to present a person they described as a "major league baseball whistleblower," Alex Rodriguez's lawyers asked that the rest of the grievance hearing to overturn his 211-game drug suspension be opened to the public.

Rodriguez's legal team called a 5 p.m. news conference at the midtown Manhattan office of Reed Smith, one of the law firms representing the New York Yankees third baseman. More than an hour later, Reed Smith partner James McCarroll read from a piece of paper and said arbitrator Fredric Horowitz issued an order restraining them from "conducting any press conference or briefing regarding the subject matter of the hearing."

McCarroll was joined by Jordan Siev, another partner at Reed Smith, a firm used by A-Rod pal Jay-Z; Joseph Tacopina, who appears to have become A-Rod's lead lawyer in the case; and Lanny Davis, special counsel to President Bill Clinton during his White House years. Davis was retained to give Rodriguez's legal and media team advice on due process and fairness issues.

The lawyers would not say whether the "whistleblower" worked for Major League Baseball, one of its teams or some other affiliate. Rodriguez's attorneys repeatedly have complained about MLB's investigation, describing it in a lawsuit as a "witch hunt" and alleging MLB paid for information and intimidated witnesses. Both sides have accused each other of leaking confidential information. MLB has denied any improprieties.

"We had a 100-plus page presentation prepared walking through a great deal of misconduct that did not relate directly to the substance of the arbitration," McCarroll said.

One person familiar with the day's developments, speaking on condition of anonymity because no additional statements had been authorized, said an MLB employee had written to Rodriguez's lawyers expressing unhappiness with MLB's investigation methods.

"We think the arbitrator issued an appropriate ruling consistent with the confidentiality provisions of the Basic Agreement," MLB spokesman Pat Courtney said. "The fact that they canceled the briefing shows that we were right in asking that they stop publicly commenting about this matter while we are in the midst of an arbitration hearing."

Red Sox ride wave of good feelings

BOSTON (AP)—Walking back to his Fenway Park office after the traditional Patriots Day morning Red Sox game, Charles Steinberg saw the reports on TV that there had been explosions at the Boston Marathon finish line.

He saw video of the damage on Boylston Street. He heard the police say that a fire at the John F. Kennedy Library might be related. And he thought to himself, ''We're next.''

''That added to the dread,'' said Steinberg, an executive vice president with the Red Sox who orchestrates many of their pregame ceremonies. ''Because your thought then is that if this is a sequence of attacks on iconic Boston locales, Fenway Park could easily be next.''

The Red Sox staff quickly and obediently evacuated the ballpark, but Steinberg and his assistants soon went back to plan for the team's return from Cleveland, where it went directly from the Monday morning game. The result was an emotional ceremony that stretched into a season-long tribute to honor the victims, doctors and nurses, police and other first-responders who were there for the explosions and their aftermath.

''I think it was a moment and time that enabled us to galvanize in a certain way,'' manager John Farrell said Monday as the Red Sox prepared for the World Series. ''It was an opportunity for our players to understand their importance to the city and what the Red Sox players mean to this region.''

With a ''B Strong'' logo on the Green Monster, one on their uniforms and another shaved into the Fenway grass, the Red Sox advanced to the World Series on Saturday night for the third time in 10 years. They will open at home against the St. Louis Cardinals on Wednesday night, and Steinberg is working with Major League Baseball to devise an appropriate way to honor those killed and wounded the week of the April 15 bombings.

Inside the Red Sox clubhouse, the tribute goes on.

Shane Victorino, whose grand slam clinched the AL championship series against Detroit, wore a ''B Strong'' shirt that read, ''In support of all victims.'' Enlarged copies of Jonny Gomes' ''Boston Strong'' Sports Illustrated cover are all around. Above Mike Napoli's locker is a patch from the Boston police, who helped apprehend suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev after a daylong, citywide lockdown.

''What I can tell you is that I don't know that one can be more proud of how the players have acted, reacted to the people who have been affected,'' Steinberg said. ''They took the initiative, shunning the help that we might typically give them.''

Three people were killed and more than 260 wounded in the attacks; an MIT police officer was also killed in a shootout during the manhunt. Even before they returned from the three-day road trip, the Red Sox sent their best wishes back to Boston, posing in the visitors' clubhouse with a ''B Strong'' banner; a Red Sox jersey reading ''Boston Strong'' with the city's 617 area code hung in the dugout for that game.

NBA eager to get Rose back on the floor

MIAMI (AP)— There's no question that the city of Chicago was waiting, impatiently at times, to get Derrick Rose back. And the same could likely be said about the Bulls franchise.

They weren't alone. The NBA was waiting as well.

When Rose's comeback commences for real on opening night in Miami on Oct. 29 against the two-time defending champion Heat, there's no question the league will be savoring the return of one of its biggest sources of star power. Rose sells tons of jerseys, sells tons of tickets, gets more people watching on television and almost certainly will raise the quality of play in the Eastern Conference.

Sure, it's better for opponents when he spends an entire season in suits.

For the game, it's better when he's back on the floor.

"Obviously, he's one of our better players in the league," said Heat All-Star guard Dwyane Wade, a native of Chicago. "You miss a guy as dynamic as that. The league as a whole missed him.. So I'm sure for the city of Chicago, as he's a guy who really believes in and loves the city, I'm sure they're ecstatic. Having him back will bring a different kind of energy."

Rose was the NBA's MVP in 2011, and has played in just 40 of the Bulls' 166 games since because of a number of injuries - the most serious of them being a torn-up left knee suffered in Chicago's first playoff game in 2012. Some suggested that because of his athleticism and commitment to rehabilitation, he would only miss a few months.

By the time he returned to the court earlier in this preseason, more than 17 months had passed without Rose in uniform. By the time Rose plays in a game for real, it will be 18 months and 1 day since his knee gave way and rendered him to endless questions about why he could be practicing but not playing.

Some of his NBA colleagues understood that logic.

"I thought it was very smart of him not to rush back," Cleveland guard Jarrett Jack said. "Everybody kept thinking that just because it was an injury that happened last year that he should come back in the regular season. They didn't take into consideration that it happened so late in April and he would be walking a slippery slope to force himself back and then to try and be himself.

"That's the thing that people forget," Jack continued. "You don't want to come back and just be half of yourself. You want to come back and be at full strength."

So Rose waited. The Bulls did better than many people expected without him, winning 45 regular-season games a year ago, ousting Brooklyn in the first round and taking Game 1 of a second-round series against Miami before falling in five games. And the off-the-court side of Rose seemed to flourish.

AP

Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose (1), goes up for a shot against Milwaukee Bucks' Larry Sanders (8), during the first half of an NBA preseason basketball game in Chicago, Monday, Oct. 21, 2013.

He had the top-selling NBA jersey in China, Latin America and Europe last season. His jersey remains one of the most prominent - and popular - at the NBA Store in New York. All that came with the majority of Rose's public displays of basketball being shooting and dribbling work on the floor before games, often working himself into a full sweat while his teammates were in the locker room making final preparations before starting warmups.

"I think he's coming back stronger than ever," Atlanta forward Al Horford said. "Just from what I've been hearing, he's anxious. He hasn't played in a year so he's going to be going after people."

That's been evident in this preseason.

If someone with an MVP award on his resume needed a breakout preseason game, Rose got it last week against Indiana. He was vintage against one of Chicago's top rivals, with 32 points in just 31 minutes. He was aggressive, getting to the foul line. He created contact, just like he used to. He was strong defending on the ball. His jump shot looked better than ever.

"It's definitely going to mean a lot to have him back," Minnesota forward Kevin Love said. "We obviously hope that when he plays the Timberwolves that he has an off game. He looks a lot stronger, he looks very confident and I think he's going to have a great year. He just looks really focused."

By the end of the year, Indiana coach Frank Vogel will probably have seen enough of Rose, given that the Bulls and Pacers will probably be the top contenders in the Central Division. And if their four regular-season meetings weren't enough, Chicago and Indiana squared off twice in this preseason as well.

So Vogel's already had a courtside seat from which to assess Rose's return.

"Same old Derrick Rose," Vogel said.

Yep, he's back.

Bulls still unbeaten in preaseason

In Chicago, Rose scored 24 points to keep the Bulls unbeaten in the preseason with a 105-84 victory over the winless Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night.

Chicago (6-0) quickly built a 20-4 edge over Milwaukee (0-5) midway through the first quarter, which eventually grew to a 30-point margin (84-54) in the third quarter.

Carlos Boozer added 16 points and Luol Deng had 15 for the Bulls.

Gary Neal scored 14 points and Brandon Kinght added 13 for the Bucks.

BUTCH

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World," said Sublemente.

The Pacific Islands Club employee clocked in at 3:41:07 in his XTERRA World debut to finish at No. 43 among 68 finishers in the 35 to 39 age group. Though he failed to land in the Top 10 in his age group, Sublemente still had a notable debut in XTERRA World, as he and former Saipan triathlete Mieko Carey were among the brave ones who completed the new and tougher course in 2011. Four-time XTERRA World champion Conrad Stoltz of South Africa and three-time winner Melanie McQuaid of Canada quit in the last leg of the 2011 race due to asthma and fatigue, respectively, while XTERRA Saipan veteran Carina Wasle also did not make it to the finish. The controversial Lance Armstrong joined XTERRA World, too, two years ago and though he completed the event, he could not do it with ease.

This year, the XTERRA course will still feature the 1.5-kilometer ocean swim at the DT Flemings Beach in Honokahua Bay, the 30.4-kilometer MTB race through West Maui mountains, and 5.9-kilometer roller coaster run along the long dirt trails of Oleander forest and dragging beach sand.

Among the three legs, Sublemente considers the swim as the hardest for him.

"I am not a good swimmer and not use to swimming in deep waters with waves. Add to the equation the more than 800 swimmers competing and you'll see yourself fighting drowning, as other swimmers push and kick you. It will be the most challenging part of the race for me," Sublemente said.

"I will take my time in swimming. Safety first," added Sublemente, who timed in at 36:32 in the swim leg in his XTERRA World debut.

Though it will be his second time to compete in XTERRA World and he will be negotiating the same course, Sublemente said he needs to be ready for any surprises awaiting him on race day.

"You have to take into consideration the weather a few days before the race and on the race day itself, plus the minor changes on the course that organizers might make. It's hard to master the XTERRA World course even if you've been there before," said Sublemente, who encountered technical problems with his bike (lose handle bar) in 2011 to finish the bike leg (1:58:49) several minutes behind his target.

In the run leg, Sublemente submitted 1:05:46 and he is hoping to break the the one-hour barrier this time after getting caught flatfooted by the uphill start of the 2011 race.

Meanwhile, Sublemente would like to thank the following for supporting the fundraising tournaments for his return to XTERRA World: Saipan Bike Pro, IT&E, Taro Sue, Pacific Islands Club, Marianas Visitor Authority, H & R Block, MARPAC, Transamerica, Brabu Pharmacy, Pacific Trading, Co. , Triple J Fresh Market, Saipan Sunset Cruise, Thai Massage, Pacific Islands Club, Romy Lanuza, Joshua Berger, Brad Ruzsala, Roselle Garcia, Joan Salazar, Father Ryan Jimenez, Paul Dujua, Susan Manula, June, Ginesh, Marco, Roland, Raymund, and Vince.

FIRST

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pair will have a twice-to-beat advantage in the championship game that will be played this Saturday.

Han and Lee made it to the semifinals after a come-from-behind victory against Patricia Abantao and Mikky Caracut. The Korean duo dropped the opening game, 11-21, but stunned its favored foe after sweeping the last two games, 21-12, 21-19. Despite the loss, Abantao and Caracut remained in contention, as it eliminated Lazaro and Mendieta, 21-16, 21-13, in the loser's bracket game to earn a second crack at Lee and Han. The winner of the Han and Lee-Abantao and Caracut tiff this Friday will challenge Malasarte and Sison in the finals.

In other results, the pairs of Loyda Ito and Ana Alvarez and Malou Malasarte and Marlene Peraja won their separate first games in similar fashions to set up a duel for the first finals berth in the women's doubles A. Alvarez and Ito lost to Lani Bartolome and Toshiko Obata in the opening game, 15-21, but stole the win after prevailing in the last two thrilling games, 21-20, 21-20.

Malasarte and Peraja also needed three games to outclass Ana Omori and So Young. The second semifinalists fell in the first game, too, 16-21, before bouncing back in the last two, 21-19, 21-13, to grab the victory.

The first semis match in the women's doubles A is set for this Friday, along with the rubbermatch between Obata and Bartolome and Omori and Young. The winners of the semis game will gain a twice-to-beat edge in the finals, while the losers with face the victors of the loser's bracket tiff for the last finals berth.

In the women's doubles B, the table is set for the semis encounter between the pairs of Jen Savellano and Shirley Kim and Alma Ortega and Dianne Francisco. Savellano and Kim drew a bye in the first round and advanced to the semis following a 21-18, 21-19 win against Obata and Windy Fernandez last Sunday. Ortega and Francisco played in the first round last Friday, downing Marylyn Montano and Ito, 21-15, 21-15, before defeating Lucelle Lampera and Cheng Saturno last Saturday, 21-12, 21-14, to move into the semis.

The winner's bracket semis in the men's doubles B is scheduled this Friday. In the loser's bracket, Obata and Fernandez, who won their opening game against Cristy Villaflor and Lani Santos, 21-13, 21-16, will collide against Montano and Ito. Ito and Montano kept their finals bid alive after ousting Caracut and Havikka Farro, 21-11, 21-13. Farro and Caracut earlier bowed to Lampera and Cheng, who will face the winner of the Obata/Fernandez and Montano/Ito make-or-break tiff for the right to challenge the losers in the winner's bracket semis.

ARMATECH

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top-scored or Armatech, recording 15 points apiece. Three other Armatech players finished in twin digits with Sonny Ebuen adding 12 and Bernard Montano and Peter Crisostomo earning 11 and 10, respectively. Canoy led Armatech with his 19 points.

Meanwhile, Week 5 games in the Masters division will be played this Saturday with Degree taking on Laguna in the first match at 5pm and Shakir Realty challenging Blue Haus in the second tiff at 6:30pm.

In the Open division, the unbeaten I Love Ladder Beach (4-0) will put its clean slate at stake tonight when it battles Mobil/JP World in the first game at 6:30pm. In the second game at 8pm, it will be Toka Degree versus Axe Proa.

Armatech/MDX 91 – Berline 15, Moreno 15, Ebuen 12, Montano 11, Crisostomo 10, Gabaldon 8, Pineda 6, Malasarte 2, Canedo 2, Park 2.

Shakir Realty 72 – Canoy 19, Moises 17, Surima 11, Bautista 6, Paraiso 6, Guirey 4, Sevilla 3, Conto 2, Imbo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-11, 50-26, 70-45, 91-72.

First Round of MISO Girls Basketball League

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Alexa Vergara uses a screen from her teammate to get free for a shot during their junior varsity game against Kagman High School in the 2013-2014 MISO Girls Basketball League early this month at the MHS Gymnasium.

A Kagman High School player looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.

A Kagman High School player pulls up for a running shot.

Marianas High School's Gabrielle Race is down o a floor after hustling for a loose ball.

Mt. Carmel School's Michelle Kautz fakes off the defense of a Marianas High School player.

Marianas High School's Jeraldine Castillo pulls up for a jumper against Mt. Carmel School's Michelle Kautz.

Marianas High School's Negahr Rastguiy, right, tries to dribble past Carmel School's Richelle Kautz.

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Butch back to XTERRA World

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Veteran triathlete Butch Sublemente left for Hawaii yesterday to race in the 2013 XTERRA World Championship that will be held this Sunday (Monday on Saipan) in Maui.

This will be Sublemente's second time to participate in the annual tournament after debuting in the gathering of the best of the best in the triathlon world in 2011. He qualified for XTERRA World this year after emerging as the top Saipan finisher in the 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championship in March, timing in at 3:46:57.

"I am happy to be given another chance to race alongside world champion triahletes. My target is to beat my time when I first joined XTERRA

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PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN
Butch Sublemente leads a small group of bikers cruising past Papago during last Sunday's Pacific Islands Club Bike for Life.

First finals seat in women's doubles C Division taken

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The tandem of Rowena Sison and Nicole Malasarte booked the first finals ticket in the women's doubles C division of the Tan Holdings Open 20013 after it notched twin wins over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

Sison and Malasarte were first paired against Roxe Lazaro and Judy Mendieta last Friday and cruised to a 21-4, 21-10 victory to advance to the semifinals of the double-elimination tournament. In the winner's bracket semis played last Sunday, Malasarte and Sison were pitted against Tina Lee and Han and gained another two-game win, 21-12, 21-11, to march into the finals. The undefeated

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mikky Caracut steps in for a return during her and Patricia Abantao's women's doubles C game against Tina Lee and Han last Saturday in the Tan Holdings Open 2013 at the TSL Sports Complex.

Armatech pummels Shakir Realty

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion MDX/Armatech regrouped, as it hammered Shakir Realty, 91-72, in the third game in the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Armatech, which came from a 73-83 loss to the league-leading and undefeated Blue Haus (3-0), now has a 2-2 record, but remained in fourth place in the team standings with its roller-coaster performance in the first round of the regular season. Shakir Realty is also at the bottom half of the six-team field with its 1-3 slate, dropping its last three games after winning its debut against Pacific Islands Club (0-4). Degree (3-1) and Laguna (2-1) complete the field.

Armatech added to Shakir Realty's woes after leading the game from start to finish. The defending champion drew at least two field goals apiece from four players to establish an early double-digit advantage after the first 10 minutes of play, 23-11. Shakir was held to 11, as it connected only four field goals and only Joselino Canoy drilled more than one basket for the squad.

Another 20-plus output in the second canto ballooned Armatech's lead to 24 at halftime, 50-26. Martin Moreno, who came off the bench in the opening canto, started out the second canto and anchored the breakaway, firing 10 points in that period. Shakir Realty picked up its scoring a bit in the second quarter, but its points were scattered and no one seemed willing to really take over the team's offense.

Canoy tried to be the go-to-guy for Shakir at the start of the second half, as he nailed three triples and 11 points in the third quarter. However, he had only Roger Paraiso for support, while Armatech shuffled its men and got contributions from the players it fielded in the game to keep the comfortable lead, 70-45, with only one quarter to go.

Ahead by a big margin, Armatech hung loose in the fourth quarter, but Shakir Realty failed to capitalize, as it was contended on trading baskets with the defending champion. Shakir Realty also lacked the offensive firepower to overhaul Armatech's huge lead, as Paraiso and Angelo Bautista fouled out and its second stringers failed to keep up with the defending champion's more fundamentally-sound players. Bruce Berline and Moreno

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Shakir Realty's Mike Surima, center, rams into Armatech's Bruce Berline, while Ernie Moises provides help defense during the fourth quarter of their game in the UFO Masters caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.
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